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'Israeli digs endanger Islamic sites'

UNITED NATIONS (R) — Jordan said Wednesday Israeli excavations in Jerusalem had caused cracks in an ancient Islamic school and repeated past charges that Israel was trying to cause the collapse of historic monuments in the Holy City. In a letter to United Nations Secretary-General Javier Perez de Cuellar, Jordanian Ambassador Abdullah Salah said the Manjakiyah School, built more than 600 years ago, had been endangered as a result of excavations under the western wall of the Haram Al Sharif. The Haram Al Sharif is the site of the Al Aqsa and Dome of the Rock mosques. Mr. Salah said Israeli excavations in this area were carried out under the pretext of searching for the remains of the second temple. But the purpose was to "shake the subterranean foundations of the Islamic religious buildings and the ancient historic monuments in the Holy City until these buildings collapse," he said.

Jordan Times

An independent Arab political daily published by the Jordan Press Foundation
جوردين تايمز: جريدة سياسية عربية مستقلة، منشورة من قبل مؤسسة الصحافة الأردنية

Crown Prince tours Jordan Valley

AMMAN (Petra) — His Royal Highness Crown Prince Hassan Wednesday made a tour of the Jordan Valley and inspected developmental and public service projects which the Jordan Valley Authority (JVA) is implementing in the southern areas of the valley. The projects, the first of their kind in the area, include irrigation projects, housing units, health care centres and extending water and electricity to all parts of the area. Prince Hassan met with JVA engineers and officials who briefed him about the various phases of the southern Jordan Valley irrigation project. They said that the first phase which will cost JD 19 million aims at the development and irrigation of 46,000 dunums of land in the southern areas of the valley.

Full report on Prince Hassan's visit to the valley will be published in Saturday's Jordan Times.

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Public Security warns drivers

AMMAN (Petra) — The Public Security Directorate Wednesday called on all drivers using the Azraq-Omari and Azraq-Safawi roads to be careful while driving their vehicles on these roads because of poor visibility resulting from sandstorms.

Jordan to open embassy in Brazil

AMMAN (Petra) — The Jordanian government has decided to open a resident embassy in Brazil and to appoint Hisham Al Shawa as ambassador to Brazil. Brazil has recently opened an embassy in Amman and appointed a resident Brazilian ambassador to the Royal Court.

Joint committee to meet Aug. 25

AMMAN (J.T.) — The Joint Jordanian-Palestinian Committee for Supporting the Steadfastness of the People living in the occupied Arab territories will hold a meeting in Amman on Aug. 25. The committee's technical office will draw up an agenda for the meeting and will study various pressing issues in the light of the Joint Jordanian-Palestinian Fund's financial situation.

Ramadan leaves Sanaa after talks

SANAA (R) — Iraqi Deputy Prime Minister Taha Yassin Ramadan left Sanaa Wednesday after talks with North Yemeni officials including President Ali Abdullah Saleh on Iraq's four-year-old war with Iran, officials here said. They gave no details of his destination, but said Mr. Ramadan, who arrived here Tuesday from Jordan, was seen off at the airport by Prime Minister Abdul Aziz Abdul Ghani and other senior officials.

Lebanese Jewish leader kidnapped

BEIRUT (R) — A leading member of Beirut's small Jewish community was kidnapped Wednesday from his home in mainly Muslim West Beirut, police said. Selim Jammous, a member of a committee representing Jewish residents of Beirut, was last seen entering a car which was driven away by armed men, his wife told police. The men had earlier come to their house in the old Jewish quarter of Wadi Abu Jamil, asking for Mr. Jammous, she said.

Socialist Int'l to meet in Brazil

RIO DE JANEIRO, Brazil (AP) — The leaders of Socialist International, a world association of socialists, will meet here to discuss Latin American political developments, organisers said Tuesday. It will be the first time the group meets outside Europe. The meeting, scheduled for Oct. 1-2, will be led by former West German Chancellor Willy Brandt, according to Clovis Briggago, spokesman for Brazil's socialist-leaning Democratic Labour Party, which is hosting the event.

Third Jerash Festival of Culture and Arts opens today

By Olga Mikhael
Special to the Jordan Times

AMMAN — The 2,000-year-old stones of Jerash will be back to life again, as performing artists and craftsmen from various parts of the world will be performing for an expected 15,000 spectators daily, beginning today, Thursday.

The Third Jerash Festival of Culture and Arts opens at 6 p.m. and lasts until Aug. 31. An impressive programme of local, Arab and international performances and activities are lined up catering for almost every age and taste.

This 16-day festival, to be officially opened by Their Majesties

King Hussein and Queen Noor, brings together 25 local folklore troupes representing all the governorates of Jordan, and 12 international troupes from Europe and the Americas, including France, West Germany, the Soviet Union, Bulgaria, Czechoslovakia, Sierra Leone, the U.S. and Colombia.

Artists from Egypt, Sudan, Tunisia, Saudi Arabia, Iraq, Lebanon and Morocco will also be presenting their own folklore performances.

The Washington Children's Orchestra and an eight-year-old radio reporter will participate in the festival at a special invitation

by Queen Noor. A group of violinists, as young as three years old, are coming to Jordan to represent the United States at the festival. The eight-year-old radio reporter, during his stay at the festival, will file daily interviews and reports back to the United States via satellite on the activities of the young orchestra which include almost 100 youths who play violin, piano and cello.

The Washington children's group will entertain the spectators on the steps of the ancient Temple of Artemis on Aug. 19, 22 and 23.

The Jerash Festival will be offering a wide range of events including music, modern and folk



dances, poetry, a book exhibition and "Mickey and Minnie Mice," the famous Walt Disney characters from the U.S.

The performances will be held at various locations within the ruins of the ancient city, including the main courtyard, the South Theatre, the Arimus Steps and

the Light and Sound Amphitheatre.

"The performances are planned in a manner that will allow us to use the entire outlets of the city, the city of Jerash," Dr. Mazin Armouti, festival director, said in a press conference held at the Yarmouk University liaison office on Wednesday.

"Our main goal is to promote inter-cultural understanding and we try to offer a balanced representation of participants," Dr. Armouti said.

The festival will be open daily from 6.00 p.m. to 1.30 a.m. for all public, except for the opening on Thursday when only invited guests

will be admitted.

"This festival is for all Jordanians, not only for the elites or specific groups, rather it is for the less privileged who are unable to go outside, so we are bringing the entire world through presenting different cultures and activities to them," the festival director added.

The organisers of the festival have printed 250,000 public admission tickets to the festival and 175,000 admission tickets to special performances.

"We will sell a maximum of 15,000 tickets a day, and we will not allow any more people than this to enter the festival in any single day," Dr. Armouti said. "We

are doing this to keep the crowd at a reasonable level and to make sure that all the service facilities can cope with the demands," Dr. Armouti added.

The Public Transport Company will provide buses daily to carry festival visitors from Amman to Jerash and back.

The main gate admission tickets are priced JD 1 each which allow them to spend an enjoyable time wandering through the city and watching mostly all the events.

Certain performances require an additional ticket to be purchased and the ticket price for these performances range from 250 fils to JD 2.

Israeli settlements pose main obstacle to peace, Austrian minister says

By Salameh B. Ne'matt
Jordan Times Staff Reporter

AMMAN — Austrian Defence Minister Freidhelm Frischenschlager Wednesday said that the Israeli settlements in the occupied Arab territories constitute the main obstacle to achieving peace in the Middle East.

The Palestinian problem is the main issue in the Arab-Israeli conflict, Mr. Frischenschlager said, "and the Israeli settlement policy is wrong, and cannot lead to any solution."

The Austrian minister said Austria appreciates Jordan's stand towards various Middle East issues and the Kingdom's peaceful approach to solving the region's problem.

In an interview with the Jordan Times, the minister, who is currently on a six-day official visit to Jordan, said the Middle East problem can be divided into two parts: the problem of occupied

lands and the problem of maintaining stability and security of the countries involved in the conflict.

"The problem is in the structure of governments," Mr. Frischenschlager said. "More moderation and compromise from these governments is required" in order to reach a settlement, he added.

Asked about a recently announced Austrian initiative for a Middle East solution, the minister said his country does not have an exact plan, "but we have intensive contacts with other countries in the United Nations through which we can play a role." The minister was referring to Austrian efforts to achieve a rapprochement in views between countries directly involved in the conflict towards efforts for a peaceful solution.

Commenting on a proposal to convene an international Middle East peace conference, the minister said Austria would support the idea, provided all countries involved in the conflict would participate. "It is useless to hold such a conference without the participation of all parties," he said.

Israel and the United States have rejected the idea for the conference which was supported by Jordan, Syria, Egypt, Lebanon and the Soviet Union.

The Austrian defence minister expressed optimism over possibilities of a break in the current stalemate in Middle East peace efforts after the American presidential elections in November.

"There is a strong possibility of a change in the U.S. policy" towards the Middle East and "maybe something will happen in Israel," Mr. Frischenschlager said. "We just have to wait and see."

The Austrian minister, who is leading a six-member military delegation on his current visit to Jordan, arrived in Amman on Monday. He was received by His Majesty King Hussein on Tuesday and Armed Forces Commander-in-Chief Lt.-Gen. Sharif Zaid Ibn Shaker held talks with the visitor on issues of mutual interest.

The minister said the subject of providing Jordan with Austrian arms was not discussed during his talks in Jordan. He said the talks centred on ways to increase the exchange of expertise in the fields of defence and military training.

According to the Austrian Constitution, the minister said, Austrian arms sales to any country has to be debated by the cabinet and approved by the Foreign Ministry, the Defence Ministry and the Ministry of Internal Affairs. He said Jordan did not apply for arms from Austria.

He also stressed Jordan's important role in any solution to the problems in the region and said Austria share identical views with Jordan in international affairs.

"The world needs moderate countries like Jordan and Austria" in order to be able to solve current international problems, the minister said.

Mr. Frischenschlager is expected to leave Jordan on Sunday.



General Sharif Zaid promoted

AMMAN (Petra) — A Royal Decree has been issued promoting Armed Forces Commander-in-Chief Lieutenant-General Sharif Zaid Ibn Shaker to the rank of General.

Egypt explains basis of initiative for Gulf peace

CAIRO (R) — Prime Minister Kamel Hassan Ali was Wednesday quoted as saying Egypt's plan for ending the four-year-old war between Iran and Iraq proposed a withdrawal to 1975 borders and a ceasefire monitored by a multinational force.

It also proposed a negotiated settlement, recognition of both states' sovereignty, and endorsement in principle of both sides' right to reparations, to be financed from an Arab or international fund, he said in an interview with the Paris-based Arabic magazine Al Watan Al Arabi.

Mr. Ali said the success of the plan, being put forward through the Non-Aligned Movement, "largely depended on Iran's approval."

Tehran, which demands the overthrow of the Iraqi government as well as reparations and a return to pre-war borders as its conditions for ending the war, has said Egypt was not qualified to mediate because of its support for Iraq.

JPMC outlines ambitious plan to increase phosphate production

AMMAN (Petra) — The director general of the Jordan Phosphates Mines Company (JPMC), Wasef Azar, Wednesday said the JPMC's minimum production figure for the current year will be 5.7 million tonnes of phosphates, while the production will be six million tonnes in 1985 and 6.2 million tonnes in 1986.

Mr. Azar was speaking to the Jordanian News Agency, Petra, about the JPMC's plan for the years 1984, 1985 and 1986, which was approved by the company's board of directors during a meeting held Wednesday under the chairmanship of Abdul Raouf Al

Rawabdeh, chairman of the board.

Mr. Azar said the plan is based on three main elements: exploitation of the maximum production capacity from the Hassa, Russeifa and Al Wadi Al Abyadh mines, producing low-cost quality of phosphates to reduce the production cost per tonne and to enable the JPMC to enter international markets with competitive prices, and finally expansion in the field of mining work.

The plan, Mr. Azar said, demands that the company proceed in producing high-quality phosphates from the Russeifa mines

irrespective of the high cost. It also warrants that additional efforts be exerted to market such a quality of phosphates, he said.

Commenting on the JPMC's goals, Mr. Azar said the company intends to produce seven million tonnes of phosphates by the year 1986.

The plan also aims to raise the standard of production from the Hassa mines to 3.2 million tonnes in 1986 and the production from the Wadi Al Abyadh mines to 2.3 million tonnes in 1986.

In 1983 the company produced 4.7 million tonnes against 4.3 million in 1982, Mr. Azar added.

Masri, Specter review Middle East situation

AMMAN (J.T.) — Minister of Foreign Affairs Taha Al Masri received Wednesday visiting U.S. Republican Senator Arlen Specter and reviewed with him Jordanian-U.S. relations, situation in the occupied Arab territories, as well as the latest developments in the region, the Jordanian News Agency, Petra, said.

Sen. Specter was also received Wednesday by Armed Forces Commander-in-Chief Lieutenant General Sharif Zaid Ibn Shaker.

Lt. Gen. Sharif Zaid and Sen. Specter reviewed a number of issues of common interest, Petra said.

The meeting was attended by the U.S. charge d'affaires in Amman.

Mr. Specter, a member of the U.S. Senate Appropriations Committee, arrived here from Cairo Tuesday on a one-day visit to Jordan. His Majesty King Hussein and His Royal Highness Crown Prince Hassan conferred with the senator on Tuesday.

Israelis, allies ring Palestinian camp

BEIRUT (AP) — Israeli and allied militia forces ringed a Palestinian refugee camp on the outskirts of southern Lebanon's provincial capital of Sidon Wednesday as residents demonstrated and barricaded streets with burning tyres, telephoned reports said.

Sidon-based reporters said the protests in 'Ain Al Hilweh camp — the largest in Lebanon — followed the arrest of 25 Palestinian men from the camp's more than 50,000 residents by Israeli occupation forces Tuesday evening.

Israeli armoured personnel carriers and troops of the Israeli-backed "South Lebanon army" militia blocked all entrances to the sprawling camp on Sidon's southern edge as the protest demonstrations were staged.

Reporters, who were denied permission to enter the camp, saw several palls of smoke rising from various parts of 'Ain Al Hilweh. Militia officers told the reporters that camp residents called a day-long strike and blocked all streets in the camp with burning tyres.

State and privately owned radio stations in Beirut, meanwhile, said an armoured Israeli patrol crossed Israel's Awali River front line in southern Lebanon at mid-morning Wednesday and took positions in the mostly Christian coastal town of Jiye.

Jiye is 10 kilometres north of the Awali. The rightist militia garrison of the town, which is the site of the power plant that feeds Beirut with electricity, was involved in a four-hour exchange of machine gun fire with Druze militia men on the hills overlooking Jiye Tuesday evening.

Soviet-Kuwaiti arms deal signed

KUWAIT (AP) — Kuwait and the Soviet Union on Wednesday signed a series of military agreements which will furnish the Kuwaiti army with some advanced military equipment for its air force and air defence, Kuwait's Ministry of Defence announced.

The agreements were signed on behalf of Kuwait by the acting defence ministry under-secretary, Faisal Al Dawood, while the Soviet side was represented by the president of the state committee for foreign economic relations, General Yuri Gritshin.

Gen. Gritshin is leading a strong Soviet military delegation to this Gulf state at the invitation of the Kuwaiti Defence Ministry.

Mr. Dawood said following the signing of the agreement that it came "in accordance with Kuwait's policy in modernising the various branches of the armed forces."

"It also comes within the framework of the recent visit to the Soviet Union by Kuwaiti Defence Minister Sheikh Salem Al Sabah," Mr. Dawood added.

The ministry announcement did not mention the type of weapons Kuwait will receive from the Soviet Union or the cost of the weapons, but it was reported last month that the deal could be worth more than \$300 million.

The visit by the Soviet military delegation to Kuwait follows a trip to Moscow last month by Sheikh Salem in which he reached an agreement in principle on the new arms purchases, including anti-aircraft missiles and other modern weapons.

The military agreements between Kuwait and the Soviet Union followed the rejection by the United States of a Kuwaiti request earlier this summer to

supply it with shoulder-carried anti-aircraft Stinger missiles to beef up Kuwait's air defences.

Kuwait's interest in the Stingers was circulated following Iranian attacks on Kuwaiti and Saudi oil tankers in the Gulf in retaliation for Iran's attacks on ships loading at oil terminals.

The United States rushed 400 Stingers to Saudi Arabia without congressional approval in wake of the tanker attacks.

Kuwait is the only country among the Arab Gulf states that has diplomatic relations with Moscow, and had already been diversifying its array of western military stock with Soviet items.

Under the Kuwait-Soviet agreements signed now, Soviet military experts were expected to arrive in Kuwait for the first time to operate and train Kuwaiti personnel on the use of the weapons.

Arab boycott largely 'defused,' journal says

AMMAN (J.T.) — Tough Reagan administration enforcement of the U.S. anti-boycott law has largely "defused" the Arab effort to block American companies from doing business with Israel, according to a report in the Wall Street Journal.

The 1977 law has been an "amazing success" in curbing undue Arab influence on U.S. trade, says Will Maslow, the general counsel of the American Jewish Congress, quoted by the journal. A number of Arab nations assert that they will not deal with companies that contribute to Israel's military or economic development, but "there's increasing evidence that many Arab countries bend their own boycott sanctions in dealing with U.S. companies," he says.

He notes, for instance, that United Technologies Corp., General

Electric Co. and McDonnell Douglas Corp. are not on any Arab blacklist although they supply sophisticated military equipment to Israel. In addition, International Business Machines Corp., Motorola Co. and Intel Corp. show little fear of losing business in the Arab World, despite investment in Israel, Mr. Maslow was quoted as saying.

Lionel Olmer, under-secretary for international trade in the U.S. Commerce Department, says the government has been administering the anti-boycott law with "draconian ruthlessness" to foil what he called Arab "intimidation" of U.S. companies.

Some U.S. business groups complain that the complex anti-boycott law and the government's tough enforcement of it hurt American companies.

Jerusalem car-bomb dismantled

OCCUPIED JERUSALEM (AP) — Police safely dismantled a car-bomb minutes before it was set to explode in the center of Jerusalem's main shopping district Wednesday, police and radio stations said.

Israel army radio said the car contained 12 kilograms of explosives rigged with a timing device.

Police said "several suspects" were detained. Israel Radio and army radio stations said those detained were Arabs and said some of the detentions were "preventive" measures.

The brief police announcement said an anonymous woman telephone caller notified police at 9:05 a.m. (0605 GMT) that a "suspicious-looking" car was parked in the street. Army radio said the car-bomb was timed to go off about 9:45 a.m. (0645 GMT).

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Iranian defence minister, four others lose jobs

NICOSIA, Cyprus (AP) — Iran's minister of defence and four other ministers of the country's 23-man cabinet failed to win personal votes of confidence in parliament losing their jobs, IRNA, the official Iranian News Agency reported Wednesday.

Fifteen ministers of Prime Minister Hussein Musavi's government easily won approval for their individual performances over the past 33 months in the voting that ended late Tuesday night, IRNA reported.

The 270-member Majlis (parliament), consisting mainly of clerical and religious scholars, is to have separate confidence votes on the appointment of three newcomers to the cabinet at its next session, IRNA said.

The rejection of Defence Minister Col. Muhammad Salam (97 votes for, 57 against and 51 abstentions) was seen as a sign of displeasure by the Majlis of his handling of the war with Iraq, now in its 47th month. Approval requires half the votes plus one of members present in the house.

Parliamentary votes of con-

fidence for each one of the serving ministers is a constitutional requirement in the wake of last April's parliamentary election.

The four other ministers who failed to win the Majlis approval are: Health, Dr. Hadi Manafi; Education, Ali Akbar Parvareh; Industries, Mostafa Yashemi and Culture and Higher Education, Mohammad Ali Najafi.

Addressing the Majlis meeting Wednesday its Speaker Hashemi Rafsanjani declared that the voting showed that "freedom of thought prevailed over group prejudice," IRNA reported.

The agency quoted the speaker as saying that Mr. Musavi would nominate five other persons within the next 15 days to take over the posts of the ministers who failed to get a vote of confidence.

The Majlis summer recess has

consequently been postponed until the remaining ministers are named and duly approved by parliament. Mr. Rafsanjani was further quoted as saying.

Prime Minister Musavi won a vote of confidence comfortably for his cabinet as a whole earlier this month, with 163 votes in favour, 21 against and 25 abstentions.

During the ministerial confidence debate deputies were allowed to speak for five minutes, for or against each minister. Votes were cast after each of the ministers defended his policies in reply.

IRNA reported earlier that supporters of the ministers, including Majlis Speaker Hashemi Rafsanjani, cited the gained experience of the serving ministers as the most important reason why they should continue in office.

Mr. Rafsanjani said opposition criticism of individual ministers was "exaggerated" adding that their replacement would not be in the interests of the country at present. IRNA reported.

U.N. seminar opens on Palestinian issue

TUNIS (Petra) — A four-day international seminar on the Palestinian question, organised by the United Nations, started here Tuesday with a call by the chairman of the Special Committee on the Exercise of the Inalienable Rights of the Palestinian People for establishing a just and durable peace in the Middle East.

Speaking at the opening session, the assistant Arab League Secretary General for Political Affairs and Arab and International relations, Mr. Adnan Ismail, paid tribute to the U.N. and its "interest in implementing its resolutions on the Palestinian question, except for one decision whose implementation has been hampered by the U.S.-backed Israeli arrogance."

The Tunisian Foreign Ministry Secretary General, Mr. Mohammed Al Massiri, who officially inaugurated the seminar, said all Arab countries and the Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO) have responded to the peace initiatives and to the Soviet peace proposal in particular.

Israel has closed all doors in the face of all peace initiatives, which have so far been introduced, Mr. Massiri added.

Jordan presents working paper

The Jordanian delegation to the meeting distributed a Jordanian working paper on the Israeli plans to exploit Arab waters in the occupied Arab territories. Talking about the paper, Dr. Ghazi Rababta from the University of Jordan, and a member in the Jordanian delegation said:

"The paper reflects the Israeli practices in the occupied Arab territories and exploitation of the Arab water resources in a manner seriously threatening the lives of the people there."

Jordan's delegation to the meetings consists of the Acting Charge d'Affaires of Jordan's permanent mission to the Arab League, Mr. Mohammed Tawfiq Ahmad, the First Secretary at the Jordanian Embassy in Tunis, Mr. Mohammed Ali Al Qudrah, in addition to Dr. Rababta.

Labour, Likud economic committees hold talks

TEL AVIV (AP) — Labour and Likud economic committees met Wednesday morning to try and forge a joint policy for a bipartisan government amid reports the talks were still deadlocked over the question of cabinet composition.

Both parties' candidates for finance minister were quoted on Israeli radio stations as hoping that they bridge their differences on the economy. But the talks were not expected to produce any results before next week.

The meeting at the parliament building in Jerusalem was attended by four Labour and three Likud representatives, according to the office of Labour Party Spokesman Yossi Beilan.

The talks came amid reported expectations of a record price rise index for July of 112 to 15 per cent, underlining an urgent need to break a policy stalemate in efforts to curb Israel's 400 per cent annual inflation.

"We believe that a national unity (bipartisan) government is the only way to handle this serious situation," Labour's Chief Economic Representative Gad Yaacobi said in an interview with Israeli Army Radio.

"We are definitely going to ask that the nation's order of priorities

be changed," he said, including a budget cut for Jewish settlement building in the occupied West Bank.

Army Radio said that Carer Finance Minister Yigal Cohen-Orgad opened the session with a review of economic affairs.

The four-hour meeting broke up about 1300 hrs (1000 GMT) and the delegations decided to meet again on Friday, according to Mr. Beilan's office. Israeli Radio said the meeting was held "in good spirit," but no decisions were taken.

Labour's three-man political team drafted proposals Tuesday that were said to "take into account" Likud's more hardline views on settlement building and the 26-month-old occupation of South Lebanon.

But Likud leaders were quoted on Israeli Radio as saying they would reject outright proposals for a settlement freeze and would demand that any future peace moves toward Jordan be based on the U.S.-sponsored Camp David accord signed between Israel and Egypt in 1978.

These positions contradicted Labour's platform which calls for unconditional peace talks with Jordan and a major cutback in settlement

spending. The committees were appointed on Sunday as a way to rescue the flagging talks between Labour and Likud that started Aug. 1. They are charged with drafting guidelines for a joint Labour-Likud platform.

Meanwhile, the negotiations were virtually stalemated over the issue of who would be prime minister. Incumbent Prime Minister Yitzhak Shamir of the Likud Bloc has refused to concede the post to Labour's Shimon Peres.

The Yedioth Ahronoth newspaper reported a growing conviction among Labour and Likud leaders that there was little chance for the negotiations to succeed because of the premiership issue. The newspaper said the Likud had proposed during informal talks that Mr. Peres and Mr. Shamir rotate the position, and that Mr. Peres would take it first.

Mr. Peres was also facing mounting internal difficulties in his negotiation efforts. Labour's left-wing Mapam faction has objected to Mr. Peres making concessions to the Likud. Mapam, with six seats out of Labour's 44 in parliament, has refrained from giving Mr. Peres unconditional support for the talks.

One Mapam leader, Yaacov Hazan, was quoted by the Maariv daily newspaper as saying that a Labour-Likud joint government would end Mapam's partnership with Labour. This would cut Labour to 38 seats, or three fewer than Likud's 41, weakening its chances of heading a government.

Meanwhile, Labour and Likud were maintaining private negotiations with members of 13 smaller parties elected to parliament on July 23. Neither Likud nor Labour had the endorsement of enough smaller parties to command a majority of 61 of parliament's 120 seats.

The Hadashot newspaper said that Labour, convinced Likud was deliberately stalling the talks, planned to heighten efforts to persuade smaller factions to join it in a narrow coalition. Labour had previously virtually given up hopes of gaining enough small party support.

Under the mandate given him by President Chaim Herzog, Mr. Peres has until Aug. 26 to form a government. But the Israeli media said Mr. Herzog would probably extend Mr. Peres' mandate by three weeks if no government has been formed by then.

Vellayati wants Iran to pursue better diplomacy

TEHRAN (R) — Foreign Minister Ali Akbar Vellayati Tuesday urged Iran to adopt an active role in international diplomacy, a policy he said was supported by Iranian Revolutionary Leader Ayatollah Ruhollah Khomeini.

"The destiny of the world is determined on the diplomatic scene," he told parliament.

"If we are not present, it will be determined without us. If we are there, we will get a share proportional to our capability and activity," he said.

Speaking in a debate on a vote of confidence in government ministers, which was broadcast live on Tehran Radio, Mr. Vellayati said those who argued that Khomeini had ordered a policy of isolation forgot that this was at the start of the revolution.

They were taking his words out of context, he said, adding: "The direct guidelines I have received from the Imam (Khomeini) are diametrically opposed to this (isolation)." Mr. Vellayati said the basis of Iranian diplomacy was relations and contacts, and also to remove

Iran from Iran's borders. "No-one will applaud us in future if we have military conflicts with four or five countries simultaneously," he told the clergy-dominated assembly.

The government's opponents wanted to turn the Foreign Ministry into an organisation which did nothing more than issue statements and take positions based on foreign radio and telex reports, Mr. Vellayati said.

Such a role, he added, "would not be diplomacy but a collection of slogans which at best would be just a part of diplomacy," he added.

Diplomatic sources said the speech appeared to be another indication that Iran was abandoning the isolationist stance it adopted after the Islamic Revolution which toppled the Shah in 1979.

They said the new policy began to become apparent two months ago, when the Foreign Ministry apparently successfully argued against launching a new offensive against Iraq, Tehran's enemy in the four-year-old Gulf war, until diplomatic efforts aimed at sec-

uring the best chance of victory were exhausted.

The ministry was also seeking to reduce tension in the Gulf, where Iraq has attacked dozens of oil tankers and merchant ships serving Iranian ports, both to safeguard oil exports and stave off the possibility of intervention by the United States, the sources said.

Iran has since welcomed West German Foreign Minister Hans-Dietrich Genscher — the most senior Western official to visit Tehran since the revolution — who said later that his visit showed Iran was ready to open up to the West.

Iranian comment on the visit was more cautious, saying Iran was ready to be friendly to those who showed sincerity over a long period.

Since the visit, the Ayatollah himself has come out with a strong condemnation of air and sea piracy.

Iran is at present holding three Lebanese who hijacked a French airliner to Tehran at the end of last month.

Symposium to discuss Palestinian rights, peace

UNITED NATIONS (Agencies) — A three-day series of meetings on the role of non-governmental organisations (NGOs) with respect to the question of Palestine will be held in Geneva from Aug. 20, it was announced here.

The international NGO meeting on the question of Palestine is the second in a series of non-governmental symposia and international meetings to be held on the subject, in response to a resolution adopted last year by the U.N. General Assembly.

This first such symposium — for the North American region, was held at U.N. headquarters last June.

Under the resolution, the assembly requested the convening of symposia and meetings of non-governmental organisations in different regions in order to heighten awareness of the facts relating to the question of Palestine.

The forthcoming Geneva meetings will be divided into five panels which will discuss the following five aspects of the question: — The inalienable rights of the

Palestinian people under international law; Activities of NGOs in promoting the awareness of public opinion of these rights.

Factors determining policy-making in Europe; NGO role in influencing that process with regard to the implementation of the inalienable rights of the Palestinian people.

Role of religious institutions in the search for a peaceful solution to the question of Palestine. Paths to a comprehensive, just and lasting peace in the Middle East: Role of NGOs and models for action.

Strategies for NGO collaboration and networking; NGO participation in providing the support to the just cause of the Palestinian people.

Invitations to the meeting have been extended to some 26 experts, mainly from the legal community and the governmental sector. Invitations to participate in the meeting have also been sent to non-governmental organisations worldwide.

300 Israeli intelligence agents work in S. Africa

ROME (Petra) — Co-operation between the Israeli and South African intelligence departments is aimed at repressing Africa and the Arabs, the Jordanian News Agency, Petra, quoted the Italian weekly magazine, Panorama as saying.

Panorama added that 300 Israeli intelligence agents, including experts in the field of border control and guided terror acts are currently working in South Africa.

'Imported foodstuffs have big share in Arab markets'

AMMAN (Petra) — Secretary General of the Arab Organisation for Standardisation and Metrology (ASMO) Thafer Al Sawaf Wednesday criticised Arab countries' attitude towards foodstuffs, saying that imported foodstuffs have a big share in the Arab market.

"This is not attributable only to consumption needs, but to the consumers' conviction that the imported goods are better than the local ones," Dr. Sawaf said.

In an interview with the Jordanian News Agency, Petra, Dr. Sawaf said this conviction by people is incorrect in most cases.

adding that such a conviction can only be faced by "increasing awareness among consumers, and concentrating on the quality of the Arab production of foodstuffs and selling them at reasonable prices."

Dr. Sawaf said the organisation has prepared several books on quality control and held many training courses for qualifying the specialised cadres to cope with the development of the production technology.

"For this purpose, Dr. Sawaf added, the Organisation Sunday will hold a training course on quality control and its applications in food industries."

TV & RADIO		WHAT'S GOING ON		FOR THE TRAVELLER		USEFUL TELEPHONE NOS.			
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Tel. 41793 Amman Municipal Library 36111 University of Jordan Library 843555 SERVICE CLUBS Lions Amman Club, Meetings every first and third Wednesday at the Hol- iday Inn, 1.30 p.m. Lions Philadelphia Club, Meetings every second and fourth Wednesday at the Amman Hotel, 7.30 p.m. Philadelphia Rotary Club, Meetings every Wednesday at the Holiday Inn, 1.30 p.m. Rotary Club, Meetings every Tuesday at the International Hotel, 2.00 p.m. Royal Automobile Club, Jabbal Amman, Eighth Circle, Tel. 815261. MUSEUMS Folklore Museum: Jewelry and costumes from 100 years old. Also mosaics from Madaba and Jerash (4th to 18th centuries). The Roman Theatre, Amman. Opening hours: 9.00 a.m. - 5 p.m. Year-round. Tel. 51760. Jordan Archaeological Museum: Has an excellent collection of the antiquities of Jordan. Jabbal Al Qal'a (Citadel Hill). Opening hours: 9.00 a.m. - 5.00 p.m. (Fridays and official holidays 10.00 a.m. - 4.00 p.m.). Closed Tuesdays. Jordan National Gallery: Contains a col- lection of paintings, ceramics, and scul- ptures by contemporary Islamic artists from most of the Muslim countries and a collection of paintings by 19th Century orientalist artists. Muntazah, Jabbal Luveldah. Opening hours: 10.00 a.m. - 1.30 p.m. and 3.30 p.m. - 6.00 p.m. Closed Tuesdays. Tel. 39128. CHURCHES St. Joseph Church (Roman Catholic) Jabbal Amman, Tel. 24590. Church of the Annunciation (Roman Catholic) Jabbal Luveldah, 37440. De la Salle Church (Roman Catholic) Jabbal Hussein, 661757. Church of the Annunciation (Greek Orthodox) Abadi, 23541. Anglican Church (Church of the Red- eemer) Jabbal Amman, 41539. Armenian Catholic Church Ashrafieh, 71331. Armenian Orthodox Church Ashrafieh, 713261. St. Ephraim Church (Syrian Ortho- dox) Ashrafieh, 717151. Amman International Church (Inter- denominational): meets at Southern Baptist School in Shmeisani, 663249. PRAYER TIMES 06:31 Fajr 07:01 Sunrise Shuruq 11:41 Dhuhr 15:20 Asr 18:18 Maghreb 19:48 Isha		AMMAN AIRPORT This information is supplied by Alfa In- formation Department at the Queen Alia International Airport Tel. (08) 532520, where it should always be verified. 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Cherkassov - Wakwan Karu - Amado - Belkis Amin Kavar and Sons Company, Tel. 22324 (six lines) at your service. MONEY EXCHANGE Local selling rates in fils Belgian franc 66.2/ 66.5 Dutch guilder 118.9/ 119.5 Egyptian guinea 322.3/ 325.3 French franc 43.6/ 43.9 Iraqi dir. 391.6/ 395.6 Italian lire (for 100) 21.5/ 21.7 Japanese yen (for 100) 159.2/ 160.2 UAE dirham 104.8/ 105.1 U.S. sterling pound 508.2/ 511.2 U.S. dollar 35.2/ 36.0 W. German mark 133.7/ 134.5 Saudi riyal 109.2/ 109.6 WEATHER Bulletin supplied by the Department of Meteorology. It will be fair, with some low clouds and northwesterly moderate winds. In Agadez, weather will be northerly mod- erate and seas calm. Low/high temperature in deg. C. Amman 18/29 Agadez 24/38 Deserts 18/34 Jordan Valley 22/38		EMERGENCIES Ambulance 193, 775111 Fire 199 Blood bank 66111 Civil Defence rescue 66111 Fire headquarters 2290-3 Police rescue 192, 2111, 3777 Police headquarters 39141 Traffic police 56390-1 Electric Power Co. 36381-2 Municipal water service 77125-8 Queen Alia Int. Airport (08) 53333 HOSPITALS Hussein Medical Centre 813813-32 Khalid Maternity, J. Amn 44281-1 Akleh Maternity, J. Amn 44281-1 Jabbal Amman Maternity 42362 Malhas, J. Amman 36140 Palestine, Shmeisani 664171-4 Shmeisani Hospital 669131 University Hospital 845045 Dar Al-Shifa, J. Hussein 667158 Al-Musharraf Hospital 667227-9 The Islamic, Amman 666164 Al-Ahli, Amman 666164 Italian, Al-Muhajir 777011 Al-Bashir, J. Ashrafieh 775111 Army, Marka 91611 NIGHT DUTY AMMAN: Dr. Issa Abu Haydar 37123 MARKET PRICES Upper/lower price in fils per kg. Apple (golden) 320/290 Apple (red) 280/250 Apple (starline) 320/280 Apricots 600/500 Bananas 280/240 Bananas (Mukammal) 240/210 Beans 150/120 Cabbage 140/110 Carrot 140/110 Cauliflower (white) 150/120 Cherries (all kinds) 800/700 Cucumber (large) 140/120 Cucumber (small) 250/220 Eggplant (large) 100/70 Eggplant (small) 120/100 Figs 400/300 Garlic 160/120 Grapes 250/200 Lemon 180/140 Melon 70/50 Marrow (large) 120/100 Marrow (small) 120/100 Onions (dry) 100/120 Onions (green) 450/400 Oranges 350/300 Parsley 100/100 Peaches 480/440 Pepper (sweet) 160/120 Pepper (hot green) 160/120 Plums 350/300 Potatoes 210/180 Sweet Melon 140/120 Tomatoes 100/70 Water Melon 140/120	
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Pan-Arab conference reviews Palestinian political, social affairs

AMMAN (Petra) — A pan-Arab conference for supervisors of Palestinian refugees affairs, currently being held in Amman, discussed a report Wednesday on the latest developments of the Palestinian question.

The report, prepared by the Arab League, tackles the Palestinian question from political, economical and social angles, in addition to the conditions of the Palestinian refugees in the host Arab countries and the services these countries render to them.

The conference also discussed the Arab League report on the steps taken to implement the recommendations of the last session. The six-day conference, opened by Minister of Occupied Ter-

ritories Affairs Shawkat Mahmoud, brings together supervisors of refugee affairs in various host countries and representatives of the Arab League, the Arab League Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organisation (ALESCO), the governments of Syria and Jordan and the Palestine Liberation Organisation.

In his opening speech Mr. Mahmoud warned of the attempts to liquidate the work of the United Nations Relief and Works Agency for Palestine Refugees (UNRWA), saying that any cuts in the services rendered by this agency to the Palestinian refugees will mean a relinquishment of the Palestine problem by the international community which has been entrusted with this task.



Prime Minister Ahmad Obeidat chairs a meeting of Public Security Directorate officers Wednesday during which they discussed increased cooperation between citizens and the police (Petra photo)

Security, defence agency launched

By Olga Mikhail
Special to the Jordan Times

AMMAN — Middle East Defence and Security Agency (MEDSA) is a newly formed Amman-based agency established for the purpose of providing security for the country, especially that threat to security today stems not only from natural causes such as fire, earthquakes and floods, nor in human form from the aggressor abroad, but from within our own country from the criminal and from civil disobedience, according to MEDSA Director General Abdul Hadi Al Majali.

MEDSA held a press conference Wednesday at the Amman Marriott Hotel headed by Lt.-Gen. Abdul Hadi Al Majali. Attending the conference were Brigadier Hassan Dhia and Brigadier-General Michael Koe from Defence and Security International (DSI) and Mr. Alastair Morrison from Defence and Security Limited (DSL).

Lt.-Gen. Abdul Hadi Al Majali, director general of the MEDSA, said in the press conference that Jordan has the talent and the manpower to support the creation of such an agency. Our reputation will give us the opportunity to promote this work within Jordan and with Arab countries who need such a security system in the future, Lt.-Gen. Abdul Hadi Al Majali said.

Also speaking at the press conference was Brig. Hassan Dhia who said that the agency does not replace the Public Security Department or the Armed Forces, but that it is to complement and assist them. "We can provide the private sector with a sophisticated and modern security technique," said Brig. Hassan Dhia.

"We took into consideration the potential of retired servicemen that we have in Jordan and with these people we are ready to provide studies and to analyse the risks involved and the methods needed to countermeasure these

risks," he said.

Brig. Hassan Dhia continued that the agency, with the DSI and DSL who provide the experts and specialists for the security operations, together provide comprehensive package deals for clients ranging from individuals through to industry, commerce and offshore operations and to governments themselves.

JD 50,000 capital

In accordance with Jordanian law, MEDSA owns 51 per cent of the agency and 49 per cent is owned by the DSI and DSL with a total capital of JD 50,000.

Mr. Alastair Morrison, DSL managing director, told the Jordan Times that "Jordan seems to be an ideal jumping off point. We are dealing with people who know a lot about security, security guards and how to protect the individual and V.I.P." he said.

"We have a regional office in Amman and we plan to have a series of Arab security companies. We provide a complete security service, survey of sites, installation of television cameras and sensors, training of guards and how to use monitoring equipment," Mr. Morrison added.

Shipping agents donate ambulance

AMMAN (Petra) — Shipping agents in Jordan have donated an ambulance car to the Aqaba Ports Corporation to be used by the corporation to serve its staff.

Newly formed society aims to tackle problems of liver disease

AMMAN (J.T.) — The spread of hepatitis and cirrhosis, the reasons behind liver disease, methods of treating liver patients and immunising people against liver disease were discussed at a seminar held recently at the Jordan International Hotel.

Attending the seminar, organised by the Friends of the Liver Patients Society, were Dr. Blain Hollinger, a professor of Medicine and Virology at Baylor College of Medicine in Houston, Texas, Dr. Ziyad Sharayyah, gastroenterologist at the Hussein Medical Centre, Dr. Najwa Bouhus, a pediatrician at the University of Jordan Hospital and Dr. Aladdin Touqan, a gas-

troenterologist at the University of Jordan Hospital.

In an interview with the Jordan Times, Dr. Sharayyah said that the seminar aimed to acquaint people with liver and cirrhosis disease, how to avoid being affected by them and how such diseases spread within the Jordanian community.

Dr. Sharayyah said that a vaccination programme will be applied to prevent the spread of the diseases in Jordan. Only people who are in direct contact with liver patients will be vaccinated against the disease, Dr. Sharayyah said. Children born to women with liver diseases should also be vaccinated, he added.

Speaking about the future plans of the society, Dr. Sharayyah said that it intends to conduct a survey in various parts of Jordan to assess the extent of the spread of liver diseases in order to establish the areas where the disease is spreading with the aim of finding suitable solutions to this disease.

The Friends of Liver Patients Society was established on Aug. 7 this year to promote information about the disease and how it is treated. The society also aims to establish a research centre to study liver diseases and will issue pamphlets and information on ways of avoiding such diseases, said Dr. Sharayyah.

Presence of school children helps prevent deterioration of Sharif Shaker Bin Zeid House

By Meg Abu Hamdan
Special to the Jordan Times

AMMAN — Down at the end of Rainbow Street in Jabal Amman is a lovely old building that houses the Mamoun School. The house, with its two floors spanning the terraced slopes of its formal garden, has not always been a school; back in 1927 when the house was built it was the private residence of Sherif Shaker Bin Zeid.

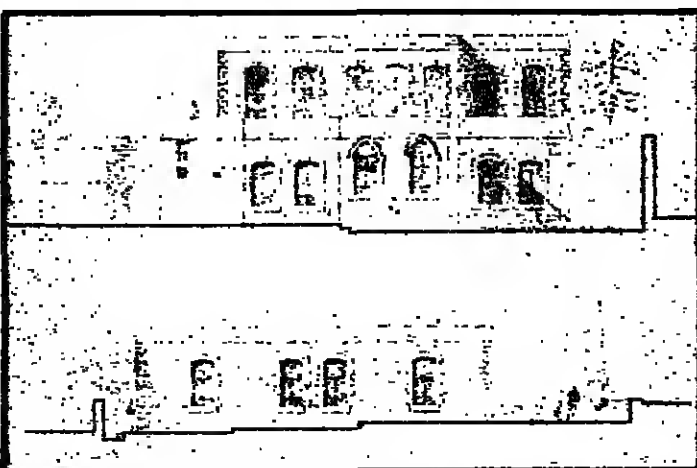
In those days the house would have been quite a special one for hidden within its four square walls, punctured by traditional modestly arched windows and symmetrically set doors, was an open courtyard around which all

the rooms were located.

Open courtyard

Interestingly, and as was usual then, many of these rooms were not connected internally and to go from one room to another one would have had to pass through the courtyard: a pleasant experience on a warm moonlight night, not so nice in the cold and wet. It would be here, in this upper level of the house, that the family would live.

The lower floor, which is entirely separate from the one above, was probably used as a reception area. The two central rooms of this lower block protrude well into the



Drawings by University of Jordan architecture students illustrate the traditional modestly arched windows of the Sharif Shaker Bin Zeid residence (J.T. file photo)

garden and one is led round to the two side-entrances by garden paths that pass by octagonal fountains.

The two pointed arches of the windows in these central rooms which are more ornate than any of those above or alongside, indicating the importance of these rooms.

The drawings executed by the architectural students at the University of Jordan, Hasan Sakajir, Kamal Abu Shamat, Eman Al-Khrouf, Samer Al-Kayyali, Shair Al-Khader and Amia Al-Yosuf, when they surveyed the house for one of their second year projects, give an idea of what the house must have looked like in its heyday.

Well-worn look

Clean and precise, the drawings make the building look like new, the reality however is somewhat different. The place has changed over the years and along with the closure of the courtyard, the house now has a well worn look so often found in school buildings.

At least the house is being utilised, it still has a function and has not been left deserted and empty to slowly deteriorate as so many of these houses from this period have.

As long as the Sharif Shaker Bin Zeid house is lived in, even if it is only by school children for part of the day, it will be preserved and its role in the development of Amman as it is today will not be lost.

NEWS IN BRIEF

Obeidat receives Abu Odeh

AMMAN (Petra) — Prime Minister Ahmad Obeidat received at his office Wednesday Court Minister Adnan Abu Odeh.

Ten die in week's road accidents

AMMAN (Petra) — Ten people were killed and another 132 injured in 196 road accidents which occurred throughout the country during last week, according to the weekly statistical bulletin issued by the Public Security Department. The bulletin said that 127 of these accidents occurred in Amman.

Youth stabs sister, mother

IRBID (J.T.) — An 18 year old Jordanian youth identified as M.H.A. has stabbed his 17 year old sister to death. He then stabbed his 45 year old mother wounding her seriously, according to a report in Al Ra'i Arabic daily newspaper. Reasons for the crime were attributed to family differences.

IAEA invites Jordan to conference

AMMAN (Petra) — The Jordanian government has received an invitation to attend the 28th general conference of the International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA) scheduled to be held in Vienna on Sept. 24. The Ministry of Industry, Trade and Tourism has nominated the ministry's director of energy, Dr. Ibrahim Badran, to represent Jordan at this conference.

University receives 150 books

AMMAN (J.T.) — Canadian Ambassador in Amman Keith Maclellan Wednesday presented the University of Jordan library with 150 books of languages and the arts. During his visit to the university the ambassador also discussed the possibility of the Canadian government donating a computer to the library.

ARC improves rail transport of phosphates as exports rise

AMMAN (Petra) — The Jordan Phosphate Mines Company (JPMC) exported 152,000 tonnes of phosphates via Aqaba port during the past 15 days, according to a spokesman for the company.

The spokesman said that the quantity of exported phosphate is expected to reach 1/2 million tonnes this month.

Aqaba Railway Corporation (ARC) Director General Sahel Hamza said that quantities of phos-

phate transported by trains to Aqaba reached two million tonnes from the beginning of this year until the middle of August, an increase of 35 per cent over the same period of last year.

PSD aims to improve services, relations with citizens

Obeidat stresses vital role of security department

AMMAN (Petra) — Prime Minister Ahmad Obeidat said Wednesday that the Public Security Department (PSD) plays a vital role in maintaining law and order and said that the PSD can contribute towards promoting continued good relations between citizens and policemen.

Mr. Obeidat was speaking during a visit to the PSD Wednesday where he met with PSD Director Major General Diab Yousef. The Prime Minister was accompanied by Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of Interior Suleiman Arar.

Mr. Obeidat chaired a meeting of assistant public security directors and directors of police departments in the country in the presence of Mr. Arar and Maj. Gen. Yousef. The meeting reviewed the services provided by the PSD to citizens and discussed methods to improve the standard and efficiency of these services which would lead to raising the standard of performance at the PSD in addition to improving the efficiency of its staff.

They also discussed a number of

issues related to public security. Maj.-Gen. Yousef welcomed Mr. Obeidat and affirmed that the PSD is doing its utmost to support government departments and to guarantee the further development and progress of the country.

"We derive from the directives of His Majesty King Hussein and from his wise government the basis for our efforts to achieve good relations with citizens and to provide them with their required services," said Maj.-Gen. Yousef.

Another meeting, held at the PSD Wednesday and chaired by Maj. Gen. Yousef, discussed a number of issues concerning the PSD and citizens.

The meeting was attended by assistant public security directors and directors of police and adm-

istration from all over the country.

Arar thanks retired officers

A ceremony was also held at the public security officers club Wednesday afternoon for former PSD Director Lieutenant General Mohammad Idris and for Major General Mohammad Ali Al Amin on the occasion of their retirement from service.

Mr. Arar presented token gifts to Lt.-Gen. Idris and Maj. Gen. Amin and expressed the appreciation and thanks to the Ministry of Interior and the PSD for the services they offered to the country and to the PSD.

Attending the ceremony were PSD directors and high-ranking PSD officers. Mr. Arar also hosted a dinner banquet Wednesday in honour of Lt.-Gen. Idris and Maj. Gen. Amin attended by Prime Minister Ahmad Obeidat, cabinet ministers, Governors, the mayor of Amman, senior Ministry of Interior officers and high-ranking Jordan Armed Forces and PSD officers.



Minister of Social Development Abdul Salam Kana'an (left at table), Minister of Municipal and Rural Affairs and the Environment Hamdullah Al Nabulsi (centre at table) and Minister of Culture, Youth and Antiquities Abdullah Oweidat (right at table) meet with citizens from Muwaqqar to discuss community centres projects. (Petra photo)

Ministers discuss social, youth centres with Muwaqqar residents

AMMAN (Petra) — Minister of Municipal and Rural Affairs and the Environment Hamdullah Al Nabulsi, Minister of Social Development Abdul Salam Kana'an and Minister of Culture, Youth and Antiquities Abdullah Oweidat Wednesday paid a visit to Muwaqqar where they met with citizens and discussed the formation of local development councils.

Speaking at the meetings Mr. Kana'an paid tribute to the local citizens contribution towards developing local communities and said that the Ministry of Social Development is working on organising and encouraging such activities by forming local development councils to make this

work more efficient.

The idea behind the local development councils' aims to involve the community in addition to all public, private and national sectors in order to develop the local communities, he said. This will be done by organising the demands and services needed by the community and implementing them according to priority within the available resources, Mr. Kana'an added.

The right start for such a work, Mr. Kana'an said, is involving people in the planning, implementation, follow up and participation in the voluntary work in an organised manner.

Mr. Hamdullah Al Nabulsi said that economic progress can not be

achieved except through the full participation of people in the efforts to develop the community.

Dr. Oweidat said that his ministry will arrange for the provision of volunteer youths who will help people to implement the development projects at a minimum cost.

Dr. Oweidat added that the ministry will establish youth centres and clubs with a view to spreading culture and developing various hobbies in order to give youth the opportunity to participate in serving the local community.

Muwaqqar's Municipal Council requested the establishment of a garden, a childrens club, a public library and a civil defence centre.

Housing Bank described 'model' for Third World

By Randa Habib

Agence France Presse

AMMAN — Jordan will soon be marking the 10th anniversary of the establishment of the Housing Bank. The bank has played a prominent role in the economic development of the country by providing loans to individuals valued at \$850 million.

The bank started operations in 1974 with a capital of JD half a million and today the bank's capital exceeds JD 18 million. The international aid organisation of the European Community (EC) has described the bank as a "model" that could be used as an example in Third World countries and has also said that the Housing Bank of Jordan is a pioneer bank in the Middle East.

In a statement to the Agence France Presse (AFP), Housing Bank Chairman of the Board Zuhair Khoury, who has held this post since the bank's establishment, said the Housing Bank has played a decisive role in the development of the country.

Mr. Khoury said that the bank has granted a total of JD 275 million in loans to individuals which enabled 59,000 housing units to be built. This flourishing in building saved Jordan from a housing

crisis during the Lebanese civil war in 1976 when many foreign companies moved from Beirut to Amman, he added.

Mr. Khoury said that the bank recently granted a JD 7.3 million loan for the construction of three housing projects in popular areas and said that these projects will provide accommodation for more than 10,000 families.

The Housing Bank is the second largest shareholder, after the Jordanian government, in the joint financial company recently set up in London with \$11.7 million capital, Mr. Khoury said.

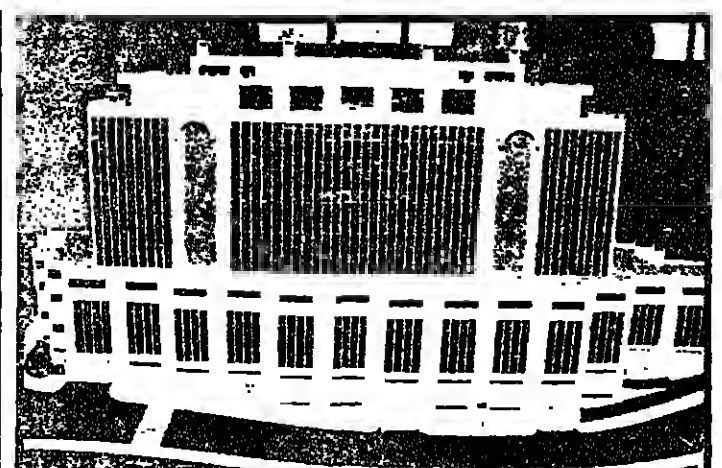
One of the major achievements of the bank is the commercial centre in Shmeisani area which was opened this year, said Mr. Khoury, as it is one of the biggest projects in the Middle East, built on an area of 100,000 square metres.

Mr. Khoury went on to say that the Housing Bank has 71 branches throughout the country and also said that it has recently introduced the "mobile bank" system. Small vehicles have been changed into mobile banks which travel to the remote villages and to Bedouin tents in the desert regions. Mr. Khoury explained that this is a first step towards encouraging the Bedouins to discontinue their migratory lifestyle and to settle down.

FOR RENT

A second floor apartment consisting of 3 bedrooms, large bedroom with a bathroom, living room, sitting room, breakfast corner with a large kitchen, 3 bathrooms and special garage.

Location: Shmeisani, near Al Rayyan Supermarket
Tel: 772265



Model of the Sweileh commercial project which will consist of a shopping complex, market, two-storey car park and government offices. (J.T. file photo)

World Bank team visits Sweileh Commercial Project

AMMAN (Petra) — A World Bank team Wednesday visited Sweileh Commercial Project to which the bank has given a JD 300,000 loan for the implementation of the first stage.

Chairman of Sweileh Municipal Committee Mohammad Al Dalameh said that the first stage of the project consists of a public underground shelter, a two-storey car park, a vegetable market, shops and a complex for government departments.

Dr. Dalameh added that once the first stage is completed, the project is expected to yield an annual income of JD 1 million.

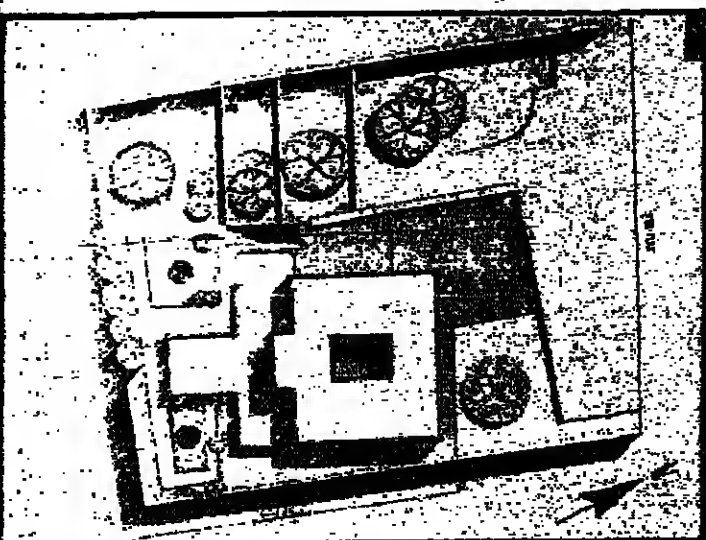
Dr. Dalameh also said that the World Bank has promised to finance the second stage which will cost JD 2 million. The second stage consists of a government department complex, a public library and an assembly hall. Dr. Dalameh said.

FOR RENT

DELUXE FURNISHED APARTMENT

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The house, with its open courtyard around which all the rooms are located, is situated in a formal terraced garden with octagonal fountains (J.T. file photo)

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Venemous message

CITING Israeli intelligence reports, a "senior Israeli official" was quoted yesterday as saying that Jordan and the Palestine Liberation Organisation are far from agreement on the future of the West Bank. The official was apparently commenting on reports last week and in the past month by PLO Chairman Yasser Arafat and his political adviser Hani Al Hassan that Jordan and the PLO had agreed on establishing a confederation between the Kingdom and a future Palestinian state.

Since at least two international news agencies carried the official's statement on the same day, one would assume that by saying this Israel was trying to make a point. The official, by requesting anonymity from both news organisations, could not have wanted his message to be less clear.

To go back to thinking about or explaining the intentions of the two PLO leaders, as to why they made their statements at a time when Jordan and the PLO were not that seriously engaged in confederal talks, is like playing music to Israel's ears. It is clear that Israel's sole objective from making yesterday's statement is to stir up trouble for us.

Israeli intelligence services might have known or guessed, correctly we believe, that there has been an active debate within the PLO on Arafat's and Hassan's motivations for saying what they did. The Israelis no doubt want this debate to end up creating more troubles for the Palestinians involved, especially now, just a few days before the planned meeting on reconciliation in Algiers of several factions making up the PLO. Further splits and squabbles within the organisation would naturally spill into Syrian and Jordanian camps — and the Arabs end up much farther apart than before on the essential questions facing them. Exactly what Israel wants.

Arafat and Hassan were not lying or distorting the truth when they said Jordan and the PLO were agreed in principle on, and nearing an agreement to, a confederation between the Kingdom and a liberated West Bank. Granted, not everything might have been agreed upon in many months of talks between Jordan and the PLO, but it is a fact of life that every Arab's top priority is the liberation of the occupied territories. Again, there might be those on the radical and the extremist sides that would contest our priority claim, but theirs is a superficial argument indeed. It would wither away the moment Israel and the United States showed a genuine desire for a genuine peace.

It is upon this very superficial argument, however, that the Israeli ruling circles are capitalising to perpetuate their occupation of the West Bank, Gaza and the Golan Heights. Israel wants Arabs and Palestinians to continue to fight each other to hold on to supremacy in the area. It wants to deepen our rifts, even about the smallest of things. This is the meaning of the message that Israel sent yesterday.

What does it matter to Shamir, if he won't give up the land, anyway?

ARABIC PRESS EDITORIALS

Al Ra'i: Military parade after mines

WHILE TALK about the mining of the Red Sea is increasing day after day, no talk about the dangers of such a process on the Red Sea countries is audible.

Planting mines in the Red Sea, through consisting a direct threat to the countries overlooking the Red Sea, poses in no way more dangers against these countries than foreign military presence in the area.

The explosion of some mines in the sea and the harm it caused to some ships supports our calls for pointing fingers of accusation at the real criminal who took the mining incident as a pretext for exercising an intensive American and European military presence in the Red Sea area.

Praise should be made of the great efforts exerted by Egypt and the other countries overlooking the sea, to encircle the problem and to ensure the freedom of navigation in the Red Sea.

However, we hope to hear loud and clear that the military presence which had accompanied the incident has ended, since the show of muscles is more dangerous than the mines themselves.

Al Dustour: U.S. manipulates Arab weakness

THE JOINT Israeli-American attempts to hamper the vote on a draft Arab resolution condemning the Israeli settlement policy in the occupied territories during a recent conference on world population which concluded in New Mexico Monday, and the American vote against the resolution introduce several political indications.

First, America no longer remembers that it had signed the U.N. Security Council Resolution 242 of 1967, which calls for the inadmissibility of the acquisition of land by force.

Second, while exploiting Arab resources and wealth, America is now absolutely biased in favour of Israel, and is ignoring the most basic Arab rights.

Thirdly, while America still insists on maintaining its role as a mediator in the Israeli-Arab conflict obstructing all international initiatives to sustain such a status, it is now announcing clearly that it supports the policy of occupation and expansion.

America could not have had the courage to support Israel's assault against Arab rights had not miserable Arab conditions been inviting enough for such a disrespectful U.S. attitude.

Sawt Al Shaab: No interest in peace

RECENT STATEMENTS by the leader of Israeli Labour Party Shimon Peres to U.S. television service reflects the Labour Party's willful ignorance of the Palestinian question, which the party considers as out of date.

The issues viewed by Peres as a key to peace in the Middle East are related to the Israeli Arab dialogue or what he termed the fait accompli relations which he said would bring Israel and the area closer to the peace process.

Hence, the major concern of the Labour Party's future plan concentrates on establishing relations of "good-neighbourliness" and finalising frontier demarcation with Lebanon. This might lead to a Labour-sponsored unconditional Israeli withdrawal from Lebanon and possible reduction of Israel's military expenditure.

The Labour Party's problem does not lie with the Palestinian question itself, but with Palestinian presence in the occupied Arab territories which concerns the Israeli government and constitutes a major preoccupation to it.

The Zionists, be they rightists or leftists, unanimously agreed on the annexation, Judaisation and expansion policy, thus closing the door before the principle of "peace for land".

Punjab experiences bitter return to normal

More than six weeks after the Indian Army completed a successful assault on the Sikh Golden Temple in Amritsar to flush out terrorists, grave tensions remain both in the holy city and the wider state of Punjab. K.K. Sharma, recently in Amritsar, reports.

WHEN Baba Santa Singh, the controversial leader of the Sikh Nihang warrior sect, led his saffron and blue-robed followers into the Golden Temple in the holy city of Amritsar last month (July), he brought tensions in the religious community to their highest point since the Indian Army action in the Northern state of Punjab in June.

By picking up a symbolic piece of rubble from the ruins of the Akal Takht, the heavily-bombarded "Seat of the Timeless", which the late extremist leader Sant Jarnail Singh Bhindranwale had made his headquarters, Baba Santa Singh started a repair operation in which several hundred Sikhs and Hindus are now taking part.

In doing so, the stocky long-turbaned Nihang has split the Sikh community. Its religious leaders think they should organise the repair work themselves, but only after the Indian Army has withdrawn from the Golden Temple. Charging Baba Santa Singh with being a "stooge of the Congress" (ruling party) and the government, the five Sikh high priests have now excommunicated him from Sikhism.

The 60-year-old warrior is unworried. "What were the high priests doing when Bhindranwale desecrated the Akal Takht by making it into an arsenal for two years?" he asks contemptuously, ordering his followers to continue with the repairs.

The repair operation, known as *kar sewa* or voluntary service, is being done under the watchful eye of the army which retains control of the Golden Temple but is not helping the Nihang and other Sikh volunteers. By maintaining the army's presence, Prime Minister Indira Gandhi has quietly let it be known that her "tough" policy on Punjab will continue.

The policy ended two years of vacillation when the army acted in

June after Bhindranwale and his extremist followers unleashed a prolonged reign of terror to press their demand for secession and creation of an independent Sikh state.

The army keeps a low profile in Amritsar but its presence is very much felt. There are roadblocks and sandbag bunkers at strategic points. Soldiers in battle dress carry automatic rifles while patrolling the streets. An occasional jeep with a mounted machine gun drives past the holy city's busy bazaars.

In the countryside, where summer farm work and transplantation of paddy are being carried on belatedly, the army is on a pacification mission. Small groups lecture villagers on the need for peace and read out a letter from Mrs. Gandhi promising that their demands will be considered sympathetically.

There is peace again in Amritsar and villages nearby where for two years Bhindranwale's writ ran. But anti-terrorist operations continue in Amritsar district and in other parts of Punjab where hundreds of Bhindranwale's followers have gone underground. In

could take months, even years, to flush them out.

Few Sikhs — not even the leaders of their political party, the Akali Dal — in Amritsar, sympathise with the terrorists. The few leaders still at liberty — the top men are in jail — are demoralised and their limited object now is to get the army to withdraw from the Golden Temple.

They speak no more of the Akali demands for autonomy for Punjab which triggered the terrorist movement. The demands are not forgotten — far from it — but the third and fourth rung leaders of the Akali Dal seem to have temporarily shelved them.

Instead, they have launched a movement for the withdrawal of the army from the Golden Temple. Small "martyrs squads" try to march on the temple every day to regain control from the army; each day they are arrested before they have progressed 10 yards. The movement is entirely peaceful.

But the Sikhs are bitter. The Akalis believe that Mrs. Gandhi planted Baba Santa Singh and his Nihang followers in the Golden Temple. By enabling him to start

seless communal killings in the past two years has shattered traditional Hindu-Sikh amity.

The third task is to rebuild the demoralised civil and police administration. This is to be done by bringing in 50 per cent of government employees from other states at all levels. A start has been made with the replacement of the governor and inspector-general of police.

The economy needs immediate attention. Agricultural operations in what is the granary of India have been delayed by the army action and the non-arrival of migrant Hindu farm workers from other states. Industry is suffering from power shortages and lack of confidence in the business community that is forcing some industrialists to consider moving to other states.

All this is not easy. With the government belatedly resorting to a "tough" policy, the Punjab economy under severe strain, the Sikh community deeply split and demoralised and communal feelings aroused, it will be a long time — if ever — before Punjab returns to normal — Financial Times news feature.

Brazilian ruling party nominates Maluf for presidency

Reuter

BRASILIA — Paulo Maluf, the presidential candidate for Brazil's ruling Social Democrat Party (PDS), is a millionaire whose family business has interests ranging from farming and finance to textiles and timber.

The son of a Lebanese immigrant, Mr. Maluf, 52, has spent the past two years campaigning flamboyantly for the presidency, flying to all corners of South America's largest country in a hired executive jet to win delegate votes for January's presidential election.

Mr. Maluf, who defeated Interior Minister Mario Andreazza at the party convention last Friday, now challenges likely opposition candidate Minas Gerais State Governor Tancredo Neves to succeed military president Joao Figueiredo on March 15 next year.

Mr. Maluf's efforts have been more akin to a U.S. presidential campaign than to traditional Brazilian politics, sparking resentment in some sectors of the military-backed hierarchy. But Mr. Maluf is a fighter. In 1978, he won the governorship of

Brazil's richest state, Sao Paulo, as an independent candidate after being denied the official nomination. In 1982, he was elected to the Brazilian Parliament by Sao Paulo state with the highest number of votes ever reaped by a federal deputy.

A civil engineer by training, Mr. Maluf has a photographic memory which he has assiduously trained since his school days. His personal habits are austere. He fasts, drinks cold garlic tea and eats a plate of fresh spinach every

day. Paulo Salim Maluf was born in Sao Paulo on Sept. 3, 1931. He is married to Sylvia Lutfalla, a successful entrepreneur whose Lutfalla Company deals in a wide range of goods including textiles and electronics. They have four children.

A devout Roman Catholic, Mr. Maluf has two photographs on his desk in his simple Brasilia office. On the wall behind him is a picture of Mother Theresa, the Calcutta social worker and Nobel peace prize winner.

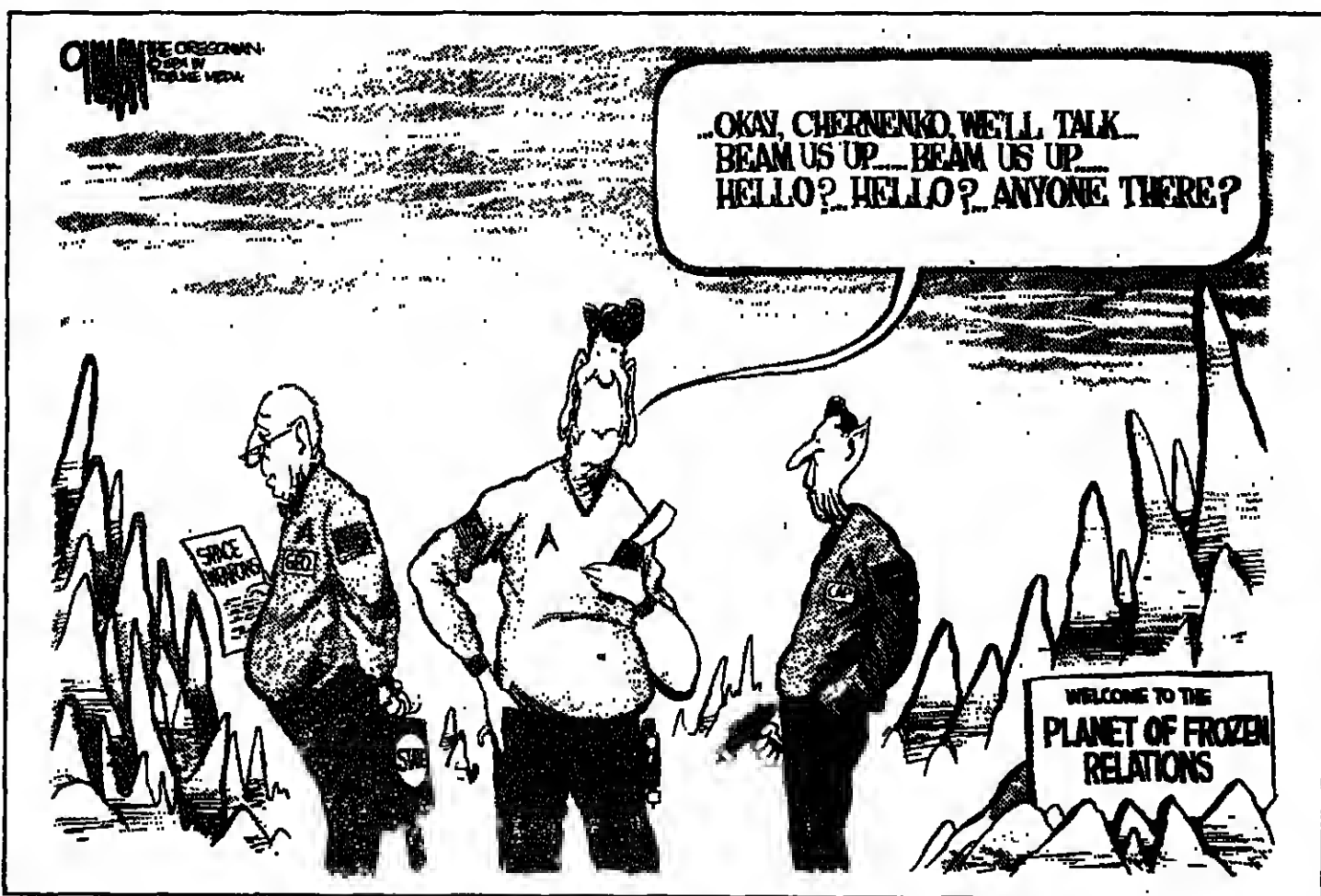
On the opposite wall is a picture of Mr. Maluf and his wife meeting the Pope. "They are good models for Brazilians to emulate," he told Reuters in an interview.

da Costa E Silva, who became president in 1977.

But his relations with current President Figueiredo have been far from warm.

In a rare audience with the president, he asked Mr. Figueiredo to smile for the cameras only to be rebuffed with a curt: "It's my house and I'll do what I like."

A staunch supporter of private enterprise, Mr. Maluf wants to lessen state interference and sees Brazil as spiritually and culturally linked to the West rather than to the developing world.



Nigeria's officers stress law and order

The new regime in Nigeria has a firm grip on law and order, but head of state Major General Muhammadu Buhari has yet to reveal a clear idea of where the country is headed. Andrew Gowers, recently in Lagos, reports.

LAGOS — To listen to statements from Nigeria's Federal Military government these days, you would think the entire nation was being turned into one gigantic parade ground. Hard work and orderly behaviour are the things of the moment: metaphorical war has been declared on indiscipline.

Obediently, Nigerians can now be seen forming tidy queues at market stalls and public lifts. Perhaps they even drive a little less aggressively than they used to.

The government is also cracking down hard on crime. Many offences, including several of an essentially economic nature, now attract the death penalty.

This certainly marks a change of style from the days of ex-president Shehu Shagari, who was overthrown by senior-army officers last New Year's Eve. As such — an effort to bring order out of chaos — the military's sweeping measures appear to enjoy broad public support, although there is disquiet among members of the intelligentsia at the curbs of freedom of the press.

But if the regime's grip on law and order is firm, its handling of other aspects of government seems, on the evidence so far, much less sure. Many diplomats and other observers in Lagos express doubts as to whether Maj. Gen. Muhammadu Buhari, the head of state, and his Supreme Military Council have an overall idea of where they are taking the country, and in particular its eco-

nomy. The critical issue remains Nigeria's relationship with the International Monetary Fund (IMF). After 18 months of negotiations, it seems increasingly unlikely that the impasse with the fund over terms for a three-year \$3 billion loan can be overcome this year. The loan would do much to restore international confidence in Nigeria and enable it to tap other sources of new finance, such as the World Bank.

Without it, the government has very little room for manoeuvre. Its hopes for an increased production quota from the Organisation of Petroleum Exporting Countries have only partly been fulfilled, with a small and temporary boost worth about \$210 million in August and September. An extraordinary attempt by Prof. Tam David-West, the oil minister, to obtain payment for oil sales three months in advance failed miserably.

In addition there is scepticism within the oil industry as to whether Nigeria will be able to sell its 100,000 barrels a day of extra output in August, and whether Prof. David-West will succeed in his present determination to try and extend the production increase beyond September.

So the country's only alternative is to live from hand to mouth, attempting to keep up with mounting debt payments while using remaining oil revenues to keep a bare minimum of essential

imports flowing in. The problem could well get worse as debt-servicing needs increase towards 1987.

The results of what one senior diplomat terms this "non-decision" are obvious everywhere. Industry is now working at between 20 and 30 per cent of capacity, owing to a lack of imported raw materials and spare parts, and in contrast to last year it has now virtually depleted all its stocks.

"If this continues, the government's in danger of recreating a nation of petty traders," commented one leading foreign businessman.

Meanwhile, scarcities of basic commodities continue to put upward pressure on prices, despite the government's tirades against profiteering "middlemen", and despite the popular currency change exercise of last April, which may have significantly cut cash in circulation.

The government's efforts to shift Nigerian tastes back towards traditional home-grown foods such as yam and cassava do appear to be making an impact, but it is uneven owing to the inefficient distribution network.

The impression of economic drift is reinforced on the political front. Politically, the government is still essentially feeding off the past. It blames the current state of the economy to a great extent on the embezzlement practised by corrupt former politicians: it seeks to rally public support partly by trying those people (some 450 of whom are still in detention awaiting trial) for their crimes, and by whipping up hostility to those who

fled abroad, such as Alhaji Umaru Dikko, the former transport minister.

Nine former state governors have been jailed, usually for terms of 21 years and more, by secret military tribunals so far.

The cases have mostly involved relatively small amounts of money — hardly adequate to back up the extravagant claims of damage to the economy. This fact, together with a curious lull in tribunal verdicts in recent weeks, has led cynical Nigerians to begin speculating whether the government is having difficulty putting cases against the former politicians together.

The trade unions, although restrictive, are weakened by recession and high unemployment. The politicians are either locked up or lying low, and there seems to be little nostalgia — except in some sections of the press — for the partisan free-for-all which existed before the coup.

Probably the main threat lies in the army itself. It is generally accepted in Nigeria that the senior army officers took over on New Year's Eve in order to preempt a potentially more radical and bloody coup from the lower ranks.

As a result, the army chief of staff, Maj. Gen. Ibrahim Babangida, and the regime's apparent strongman, Brig. Tunde Idiagbon, have been spending much of their time in recent months with their fellow soldiers — explaining the government's problems or restoring malcontents.

How long that will serve to keep the junior officers in their place is the key question troubling thoughtful Nigerians. — Financial Times news feature.

British troops still in N. Ireland, 15 years on

By Colin McIntyre
 Reuter

BELFAST — At five o'clock in the afternoon of August 14, 1969, shocked Britons watched as troops were called in to quell a civil disturbance on home territory after serious rioting broke out in Londonderry.

A day later, 600 men of the Third Battalion of light infantry entered West Belfast with fixed bayonets to provide a buffer between warring Protestants and Catholics.

It was the first time the British Army had been used in a civil conflict at home since 1921.

Fifteen years later, the army is still in Northern Ireland, with every indication that it will be here indefinitely.

While the government is concerned by the continued presence of Khaki uniforms on British streets, it considers the army still necessary to cope with increasingly well-trained and armed Republican militants fighting British rule in the province.

Since the start of the most recent troubles, 377 full-time soldiers and 1,670 civilians have been killed.

"We would like to get the army off the streets, but only when the police feel the time is appropriate," said Press Officer Alan Percival at the army's sprawling headquarters in Lisburn, south of Belfast.

The army has been able to reduce its presence from a peak of 21,000 in 1972, when troops were sent in to clear Republican "no-go" areas to a current figure of 9,000 regulars.

In addition are 7,000 members of the Ulster Defence Regiment, a force unique in Britain which is recruited locally, serves only in Northern Ireland and is staffed mainly by part-timers.

But even a police force expanded from 3,000 in 1969 to 13,000 today is too stretched to patrol the most sensitive parts of the province — strongly Irish Nationalist areas such as West Belfast, Londonderry and South Armagh, which is widely referred to as "bandit country".

The army's specialist training is still required to mount helicopter searches of remote parts of the country, launch under-cover operations to flush out guerrillas and defuse countless bombs and booby-traps planted to kill members of the security forces.

But with guerrilla activity and street rioting well down on its peak level of the mid-1970s, the army has been able to reduce its profile and now describes itself as very much the junior partner to the police.

"We don't actually take orders from the police, but they outline what they want achieved and we try to carry it out," Mr. Percival says.

Though the still very visible army presence in Northern Ireland can come as a shock to a new-

comer, for veterans it is almost a return to normality.

Mr. Percival recalled that the army had not been involved in a major street disturbance since 1981, when 10 Republican prisoners demanding special status fasted to death.

While at the height of the troubles most of the troops were brought in on emergency four-month assignments, living in cramped and overcrowded barracks, the majority now are on regular two-year postings with their families.

Those on long-term postings are assigned to low-tension areas populated by Protestants who support the link with the British Crown, and are able to socialise with the local people.

"The average soldier here completes his two-year assignment without ever hearing a shot or a bomb," said Mr. Percival, adding that some of the men married local girls.

There are also tragedies, however. In December 1982, 17 people, mainly off-duty soldiers, were killed in a bomb blast in a bar in Ballykelly, County Derry, which had been regarded as a relatively safe area.

Last May two off-duty soldiers taking part in an international angling tournament near Enniskillen, another previously quiet area, were killed when a bomb exploded under their car as they started to drive off.

And there are still sensitive areas, such as West Belfast and South Armagh, where only single soldiers on short-term assignment are sent, separated from their families and barred from contact with local people.

While the hostility faced by some soldiers from their fellow Britons can cause psychological problems, Mr. Percival said most cope well with the crisis.

"The average soldier here is 19, meaning he was four when the troubles started. He has grown up with them."

The troubles began in 1968 when members of the province's 500,000 Catholics, who complained of widespread discrimination by the million-strong Protestant majority during 50 years of Protestant rule, began marching for their civil rights.

The Catholics, usually Irish Nationalists who would like Northern Ireland to join the Republic, charged that a local election system, which gave property owners more than one vote, discriminated against Catholics who tended to be less well off.

They also complained against gerrymandering of voting districts by Protestants and discrimination in jobs, and charged that new factories were invariably sited in Protestant areas.

After violence broke out during one march in Londonderry in October 1968, the provincial government announced reforms, but these were rejected by the increasingly militant civil rights movement.

الجزيرة

Hakawati theatre thrives in Arab Jerusalem

By Jennifer Frey

BACK in the 1920s and 1930s, the art of story-telling was commonplace in Palestine. The glib artisans of poetry and mime, known as *Hakawati*, roamed the villages enchanting young and old with their tales.

In time the tradition died, and such entertainment found outlet only at weddings, funerals and religious festivals.

"The storyteller" is back. A group carrying its traditional namesake recently opened a Palestinian Theatre and Cultural Centre in east Jerusalem, launching the first and only theatre of its kind in the occupied territories.

Some 15 dedicated actors of the Hakawati troupe have been working industriously since last summer collecting funds and renovating what would become the Nuzha Al Hakawati Centre. Leasing an abandoned cinema — the first moviehouse in east Jerusalem — from its Arab owner, the actors donated work clothes and reconstructed the theatre themselves: hauling off 20 truckloads of dirt, putting up new walls, an extra rehearsal hall, bleachers and even salvaging old tomato paste cans to adorn lampshades and broken pieces of ceramic tiles for table tops. The group's efforts brought down the estimated renovation cost from half a million dollars to \$100,000.

"All the financing and licensing was done upfront, 100 per cent legally," says actor Daoud Kuttub, explaining that money was collected from wealthy Palestinians living in the West Bank and abroad. But still Hakawati director Francois Abu Salem was called in for questioning by Israeli authorities the week the theatre opened.

"The theatre simply escaped the eyes of the Shin Bet (a branch of Israeli intelligence)," says Abu Salem. "They really didn't want much and they didn't try to stop anything. They were just angry they didn't have too many spies in that field."

Whatever the explanation, the theatre opened May 9 without incident, and its opening show, "1001 Nights Of A Stonethrower," glided through censorship. As Jerusalem-based Palestinian newspapers are in continual clashes with Israeli censorship, that all went smoothly at the theatre is of credit both to the censor and Al Hakawati's tasteful handling of sensitive issues.

Although theatre isn't subject to army censorship in the way that print journalism is, every film or play script going into production in Israel must first receive approval from the Israel Film and Theatre Censorship Board. Though its very existence is considered by many Israelis to be an insult, the board has been quite lenient. Since 1948 only three plays (all by Jewish playwrights) were banned in their entirety; and the board only tampered with one of Al Hakawati's plays.

"Our criteria are wide," says board chairman Yehoshua Justman. "Censoring only that which is considered to be offensive to morality, detrimental to any particular sector of the population, or causes incitement." By their very nature, Justman says that Palestinian plays can be more problematic.

"But we don't ban a play just because we don't agree with its views," says Justman. "It depends on how it is presented."

"1001 Nights Of A Stonethrower" so skillfully allegorised the everyday hardships of life in the West

Bank that Justman says it passed at first glance.

"We don't raise flags and slogans," says Kuttub. "Instead we find our own motifs to illustrate our experiences with a human touch."

Without resorting to heavy-handed dialogue, 1001 Nights cleverly shows, through slices-of-life scenes of Jews and Arabs in the territories, just who is in control, and how that affects the governed and the governing.

Hakem, the military governor and his "Genie" reside on the upper, dominant half of the stage — the local Arabs below. Gidi the Hakem is dressed in a silver, armoured suit, his Genie in a sexy, chiffon evening dress. In contrast to the cold steel silver and grey above, the villagers are clad in light, colourful galabiyeh, their houses are simple but homey.

The governor passes his time posing narcissistically for a portrait while Don Coreleoni and a string of thugs try to sell him pistols, computers, lassos and other instruments of amusement and oppression.

Meanwhile, below, tired Arab women carry bundles on their head; the kiosk keeper with the only public telephone in town arranges visas for his friends, and a girl in pigtail sits with her young boyfriend, Nassour playing with stones.

"When journalists write about the West Bank, it's because Nassour struck again," says Abu Salem.

The Promised Land tour bus parades through announcing its warning not to eat or drink anything unless sealed in packaging. During the curfew scene the bus returns.

"You are now passing through an Arab village," says the guide in

English. "But I can't understand where all the people have gone. They must be celebrating one of their festive holidays."

It's all done tongue-in-cheek, but the message gets through.

At one point the phone rings in the kiosk, the keeper twists his face and hollers into the receiver in Hebrew: "Ma? Ta'out!" (What? Wrong number!) as if to say the Israelis are always in the background.

"There's not a political statement in the whole play," director Abu Salem insists. "But political analysis is going on all the time."

After settling on the purchase of the lasso, the military governor sets his sights on the tree, symbolically "rooted" in the village below. Gidi nooses his tree, but the boy Nassour manages to steal a branch. There's a showdown in which Nassour triumphs. Unnumbered by the trappings of power, the boy is able to throw a quick stone at his Goliath-Hakem.

Yet the governor is not presented one-dimensionally. Along with his demonic playthings, Gidi always has at his side a piano. "I was born to be a musician, not a governor or king. I'm very tired of all this," says the governor, who finally sheds his armoured clothing for a soft, white dinner jacket.

Comments Abu Salem: "We wanted to show that the Israelis also suffer from their occupation. It wears them down. We're not condoning the actions of the occupation, but we know that some Israelis question what they are doing."

Radi Shehadeh, playing the role of Gidi, adds: "Inside every human being is both a savage part and a human part. If we didn't show both, the character would be less real, less believable."

The characters are portrayed with a sense of humour and humanness sure to capture the viewers' sympathy.

In addition to faulting the Israeli authorities, Al Hakawati confronts their own society head-on. The classic motif of the blind man carrying the cripple, used in 1001 Nights, angered many who accused Al Hakawati of unjustly criticising Arab notables. The blind Abu Al Balad says: "I let you on my back — and the result is

that nothing good came out of you." The cripple answers, "But you are so near-sighted... not only in your eyes."

Defending the play's controversial message, actor Monira Shehadeh says: "Without first achieving freedom within our society, we can never fight the Israelis."

Al Hakawati consists of seven full-time members including Galilee Arabs, West Bank Palestinians and a Jewish-born American, Jackie Lubeck. Lubeck came to Israel several years ago for vacation, fell into a good job, met Francois Abu Salem and married. "I hate to be advertised as the Jew of the group," she says. "I'm not here as a political move and it's not important what religion I am."

Lubeck, 32, rejects the notion that she must be a true Palestinian to identify with the theatre. "In fact because I'm not Palestinian, I can see things differently and contribute in a unique way," she says.

Though not the only theatre group in the territories, Al Hakawati has enjoyed the most success. The group has been together for seven years, performing in open air villages, refugee camps and school playgrounds (despite some effort by the ministry of education to forbid such shows). They have taken their troupe to the theatres in Tel Aviv and on European tours. In 1980, Al Hakawati was asked to the prestigious International Carthage Festival in Tunis.

To date, 1001 Nights Of A Stonethrower is the most costly Al Hakawati production. Its elaborate sets and rich costumes, which cost around \$10,000, was cofinanced by the French production company, Le Grand Magic Circus. Costume designer Lubeck (who also played the part of Genie), together with Abu Salem and one other member, worked three months in Jerusalem developing the show's colour scheme and the characters' exaggerated costumes and personalities. Afterwards, they took some 600 drawings and two truckloads of material — Bedouin coins, galabiyeh, ostrich feathers — to France, where they made their final purchases and assembled the sets.

Al Hakawati productions are

Randa Habib's Corner

Better speak English

A TELEPHONE call from one of my readers attracted my attention to the following problem. Having read an advertisement in the papers of an apartment for rent, this gentleman called the number given in the advertisement. After telling the person who answered that he was interested in the advertised apartment, nur friend, who was talking in Arabic, asked the owner when he could visit the house. The latter answered courteously that the apartment had already been rented. Something in the voice of the owner was not right: how come that the apartment had already been rented although it was only 9:00 in the morning?

Our reader wondered how an owner who wanted to rent his apartment seemed to refuse a prospective client. "Had he seen me, I would have thought that he didn't like my looks, but I had only talked to him," the man thought.

It is then that he had an idea, a small one that grew bigger in his head. He told his wife (who is French) to call the landlord and ask about the apartment.

His wife called and asked the owner, in English, if she could see the apartment. "Certainly," he answered, "at your convenience."

The moral in this story understood by me and by my reader is that the landlords are only interested to rent their houses to foreigners. Now that you know their weak point talk to them in English.

Women's theatre group takes the stage

By David Lewis
Reuter

LONDON — A survey of 600 plays staged in Britain last year showed that only 44 were written by women. Half of those were written by Agatha Christie.

The Women's Playhouse Trust, backed by star names like Glenda Jackson and Jane Lapotaire, seeks to redress this imbalance and to promote the role of women in all areas of theatrical work.

"We are the first major mainstream women's organisation in the theatre," co-founder Julie ("Julia") Wright told Reuters in an interview near the Royal Court Theatre, where the trust's inaugural production opened last month.

"There are lots of fringe groups whose roots are very important to us, but there's no group in the world comparable to this in weight and prestige."

Apart from Ms. Jackson and Ms. Lapotaire, other leading lights include Diana Quick, star of television's "Brideshead Revisited" and a leading National Theatre and Royal Shakespeare Company (RSC) player, and Pam Gems, writer of the award-winning "Piaf".

A committee is raising funds to buy a theatre for the trust to be named after actress Sarah Siddons (1755-1831) one of the first queens of the London stage.

The trust's first production, "The Lucky Chance", was written in 1686 by Aphra Behn, a one-time spy for King Charles II who is said to have been the first woman ever to make her living as a dramatist.

"All women together ought to let flowers fall upon the tomb of Aphra Behn... for it was she who earned them the right to speak their minds," the writer Virginia Woolf once wrote.

"She was a very important feminist writer of the time," says Ms. Wright, a 36-year-old former headmistress from Adelaide, Australia, who took a doctorate in psychology after coming to Britain in 1973.

"The Lucky Chance" is a bawdy story of how three women rebel against the power of men and money to marry according to their

own desires. Long pilloried for indecency, the play has not been seen on the London stage since 1718.

Among three distinguished actresses in the new production, directed by Ms. Wright, is Harriet Walter. She gave up a season with the RSC to play Julia, in love with the handsome Gayman but unapologetically married to Sir Cautious Fulbank, a wealthy banker.

The music was written by a woman and the play designed by choreographer by women. But Ms. Wright insists that, while the trust discriminates in favour of women, it is not anti-men.

Indeed, although Pam Ferris industriously plays nine minor male roles — and two female ones — more actors than actresses appear on the stage. Among them is Denis Lawson, star of the recent British film "Local Hero".

Work has been stalled by the trust narrowly failing to buy either the recently sold Garrick or Mermaid theatres. But once settled, it aims to produce one revival, one foreign play, one classic and three specially commissioned new plays every year.

All must be by women writers, except the classic play.

"There is a whole area of the classics where certain voices have not been heard," says Ms. Wright, an associate director of the critically acclaimed Royal Court. "I bet you have never seen a Shakespeare directed by a woman in a mainstream theatre."

She bawled the fact that women have practically no directorial voice in either the RSC or National Theatre.

"The subsidised theatre is in the hands of a very few people, and I think it's much harder for women in Britain than in Australia or America."

The actress Sheila Hancock had to threaten never to perform for the RSC again before being allowed to direct, Ms. Wright complains, and then she was given only a touring production.

Among three new plays commissioned by the trust is a new version by Louise Page of "Beauty and the Beast", adapted from the original 17th-century French. Page's "Golden Girls" was premiered by the RSC in Stratford this season.



Gidi, the governor, lassoing a peasant woman (photographs by Karen Benjian)



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Soviet alternative to Olympics begins Friday

9 Western nations join Moscow events

MOSCOW (Agencies) — At least nine Western nations are participating in the East bloc's "Druzhba-84" international sports competition, the Soviet news agency TASS said Tuesday.

The capitalist countries, which also fielded athletes for the just-concluded Olympic Games, join about 30 developing nations and Warsaw Pact allies, many of whom boycotted the Los Angeles Olympics.

TASS said athletes of more than 40 nations are competing in the games beginning Friday. Included are almost all socialist countries, many developing countries from Asia, Africa and Latin America, as well as Austria, Brazil, Greece, Denmark, Italy, Canada, Finland, France, Sweden and other capitalist states, TASS said.

The official news agency said the opening ceremonies in central Lenin Stadium will be Saturday, with some men's track and field events beginning the previous day.

The Soviet Union announced in May it would not participate in the Los Angeles Games, saying its decision was prompted by the U.S. organizers' inadequate assurances of security for Soviet athletes.

East bloc athletics

Meanwhile, East Europe's top

athletes were limbering up in preparation for two star-studded athletics meetings in Prague and Budapest, ready to show what the Olympics missed through the Soviet-led boycott.

The highlight of the three-day women's meeting which starts in Prague Thursday should be the 400 metres clash between Czechoslovak Jarmila Kratochvilova, world record holder and world champion, and East German Maria Koch, the fastest woman in the world over 200 metres.

Another duel missed in Los Angeles pits Tamara Bykova of the Soviet Union against Bulgarian Ludmila Andonova, who cleared 2.07 metres on July 20 to add two centimetres to the world high jump record Bykova had established just 27 days earlier.

The Czechoslovak press has heaped scorn on the performances in Los Angeles, and the competitors in Prague will be under tremendous pressure to set better standards.

Kratochvilova, 33, who is also the world record holder and cha-

mion over 800 metres, says she will retire at the end of the season and she was particularly unhappy she could not compete against her old rival Koch in Los Angeles.

Both she and Koch, who equalled her own 200 metres world record of 21.71 in Potsdam last month, have been in excellent form and the East German failed by a mere 0.27 to match Kratochvilova's 400 metre mark of 47.99 seconds in Dresden recently.

Should either slip, another Czechoslovak, Tatiana Kocembova, is waiting in the wings. Kocembova is only the third woman to have run the distance under 50 seconds. Kratochvilova could face another test in the 800 metres from Nadezhda Olizarenko of the Soviet Union and the two nations will clash again in the shot with world champion Helena Fibingerova facing Soviet world record-holder Natalya Lisovskaya.

Overall, East Germany are expected to take the main honours, led by Koch and sprinter Marlies Gocher and long-jumper Heike Dreschlerdaire, both of whom are world champions.

Romania, the only Soviet bloc ally to compete in Los Angeles, will not be represented.

The men's meeting in Budapest on Monday has attracted a number of Olympians, including Carl Lewis and Ed Moses and is being billed as the major East-West athletics clash of the summer.

1984 Jordan Open Tennis begins today

AMMAN (J.T.) — Mr. Ishaq Jarallah, secretary-general of the Jordan Tennis Federation (JTF), announced Wednesday that preparations for the Jordan Open Tennis tournament, the principal tennis games of the year, have been completed.

The games will start today, Thursday, at 2.00 p.m. and continue on till Thursday Aug. 23. One hundred and thirty-four tennis players are participating; of these 58 are for men's singles, 16 for women's singles, 40 for men's doubles, nine for women's doubles, and nine for mixed doubles; the JTF had a sixth event: men's doubles for those 40 years and over, but none has registered for this event.

The games will be played at the Sports City.

Kuwaitis beat Wihdat

AMMAN (J.T.) — The Kuwaiti Club Tuesday beat Jordanian Al Wihdat team 2-1 during a match held at the Sports City Stadium.

Rashid Al Hasawi scored the Kuwaiti goals while Issam Nofal

scored Al Wihdat goal.

On Monday, Ramtha team beat the Kuwaiti team 1-0 during a friendly match which was held at Irbid Stadium.

Gerulaitis advances in Toronto Grand Prix

TORONTO (R) — Eighth-seeded Vitas Gerulaitis defeated fellow-American Tim Wilkison in second-round action Tuesday at the \$300,000 grand prix tennis tournament here.

Gerulaitis needed two hours and 26 minutes to defeat Wilkison 6-7, (2-7), 6-1, 7-6 and (7-2) amid clashes with the umpire and fans.

A violent thunderstorm followed the afternoon matches, forcing the night matches to be postponed. The second-round match between third-seeded Jimmy Connors and unseeded fellow-American Andy Kohlberg was rescheduled for Wednesday.

Defending champion Ivan Lendl of Czechoslovakia, who is scheduled to play Francisco Gonzalez of Paraguay, and second-ranked John McEnroe of the United States, due to play Australian John Edmondson, also begin in the tournament on Wednesday.

Gerulaitis lost the opening set tie-breaker after a run-in with three spectators seated behind him, trailing 3-0 to Wilkison. Gerulaitis was provoked by a man who was heard to say, "You can't talk that way to her," referring to a woman sitting near him in a box seat.

The two made threatening remarks to one another before Gerulaitis was given a delay-of-game violation warning by umpire George Rustschiff.

Olympic committee studying permanent games site

ATHENS (Agencies) — The International Olympic Committee (IOC) has asked Athens for a detailed study of the idea for a permanent Olympics site in Greece, the office of President Constantine Karamanlis said Tuesday.

Since the Eastern bloc announced its boycott of this year's games in Los Angeles, Mr. Karamanlis has intensified an eight-year campaign to have the Olympics return here, their ancient site.

A presidential announcement said two Greek members of the IOC, Nikos Nissiotis and Nikos Filaretos, briefed him Tuesday on the latest IOC meeting in Los Angeles.

According to the announcement, the two told him "the IOC agreed unanimously to examine the Greek idea after a submission by Greece of a full technical and economic study, and that the IOC was ready to provide technical advisers."

IOC officials came to Greece soon after the 1980 Moscow Games, boycotted by the United States, and selected a possible site for the games. But the Greek idea ran into substantial opposition at an IOC meeting in 1981.

Mr. Karamanlis had described the adoption of his offer to set up a home for the Olympics near the site of the original games as "a historical necessity."

The announcement said "the IOC is ready to assist in the drafting of the study, if this was requested by Greece."

THE Daily Crossword by Victor Jambor, Jr.

ACROSS
1 Scarlett's home
5 Hog food
9 "The World According to..."
13 Followed closely
14 Wall
15 Waterborne
16 New Year's Day
18 Oil group
19 Tranquillity
20 Naval letters
22 Type
23 Throw here and there

DOWN
1 Sailor
2 Brief
3 Digests
4 Ushers to new locations
5 Takes as one's own
6 Utility service charge
7 Scrubs
8 Andous
9 Govt. grp.
10 Ambitious person

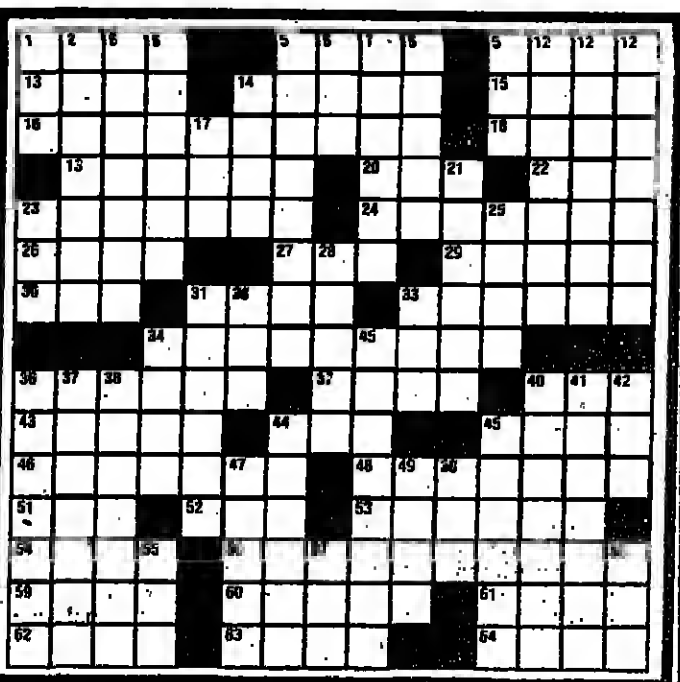
24 Person on pension
26 Cabins
27 Commercial
29 Upright
30 Curve
31 Starch
33 Quick shots
34 Hockey's penalty
36 Made great efforts
39 Spheres
40 Exceed
43 Expunge
44 Theater sign
45 Flying or night
46 Combining power

48 Mercury's winged sandals
51 Pipe joint
52 Patriotic soc.
53 Fashion vogue
54 Drizzle
56 Rote
59 To shelter
60 Acoustom
61 Gauzy material
62 Put on freight
63 Certain bills
64 Formerly, of old

11 Choose again
12 Small bundles
14 Circuit breaker
17 Very much
21 Office help
23 That girl
25 Horse or curial
31 Winning or losing
32 Took food
33 Brother or sister
34 Portion
35 Certain horses
36 Various
37 Refrain
38 Made a comeback
40 Later
41 Prayers
42 Legume
44 Calm
45 Cloak
47 Printer's mark
49 Comic Johnson
50 Garland
55 Once named
57 Play on words
58 Negative

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FRIDAY'S RACES AT THE ROYAL RACING CLUB-TUNEIB

FIRST RACE - 3.00 p.m. For beginner horses Distance 1600 metres

Owner	Horse	Trainer	Jockey	Weight
1. Khaled N. El Favez	Jarah	Owner	Mostafa	54
2. Mamdouh El Adwan	El Abjar	Owner	Salah	54
3. Mamdouh El Adwan	El Zabta	Owner		52.5
4. Mamdouh El Adwan	Mihriz	Owner		54
5. Sakir Fahad	Sinjar	Owner	Fawaz	54
6. Mohammad El Favez	J El Kasta	Owner		52.5
7. Ali Mohammad	El Lafef	Owner		52.5
8. Mohammad Suliman	Mufdah	Owner	Ahmad	52.5

SECOND RACE - 3.30 p.m. For beginner horses Distance 1000 metres

Owner	Horse	Trainer	Jockey	Weight
1. Faisal Akel El Favez	A. Madaba	Owner	Dailallah	52.5
2. Hamed El Jamaray	J. Diban	Owner	Favaz	52.5
3. Mohammad K. El Favez	Islam	Owner	Salah	52.5
4. Haya Akel El Favez	Mashaleh	Owner	Mousa	52.5
5. Dhary B. El Sbael	El Farya	Owner		52.5
6. Fawaz El Nabulsi	N Fawaz	Owner		52.5
7. Younis A. Khalaf	Hulin	Owner		52.5
8. Mohammad A. El Kareem	Ahlan	Owner		49.5
9. Talab A. El Kadir	D. El Mshakar	Owner	Saad	48.5
10. Saleh El Favez	Maha	Owner		48.5
11. Mohammad A. El Naby	M. Rasad	Owner	George	52.5

THIRD RACE - 4.00 p.m. For beginner horses Distance 1400 metres

Owner	Horse	Trainer	Jockey	Weight
1. H.H. Late Sherif Naser	Eiad	Ibrahim	Ibrahim	54
2. H.H. Late Sherif Naser	Sayal	Ibrahim	Fawaz	54
3. Mamdouh El Hadid	Lazaz	Owner		54
4. Mamdouh El Hadid	El Fayha	Owner	Salah	52.5
5. Harry El Hadid	Amrah	Owner	Ahmad	52.5
6. Bahjat Fanous	Holwan	Owner	Mikhael	51
7. Ghalib Haddadin	Sayaf	Owner	George	48
8. Izzat Kandour	Halimah	Owner		46.5

FOURTH RACE - 4.30 p.m. For Third Class horses Distance 1400 metres

Owner	Horse	Trainer	Jockey	Weight
1. Bahjat Fanous	Apollo	Owner	Mikhael	57
2. Bahjat Fanous	Sultan	Owner		53
3. Nimer El Hmoud	Rabadan	Owner	Fawaz	53
4. A. Ellatif El Hadid	S. El Wihdat	Owner	Dailallah	53
5. Trad O. El Favez	Elahak	Owner	Sead	45.5

FIFTH RACE 5.00 p.m. For Second Class horses Distance 1000 metres

Owner	Horse	Trainer	Jockey	Weight
1. Ghalib Haddadin	D El Aswad	Owner	George	56
2. Ghalib Haddadin	Awad	Owner		50
3. A. Ellatif El Hadid	Wisam	Owner	Mikhael	50
4. Samy Haddadin	B. El Reeh	Owner	Mahmoud	48
5. Samy Haddadin	Khlood	Owner		46.5

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Ardrox wins Alia contract

LONDON — Ardrex Limited of Bourne End, part of the Brent Chemicals International Group, has won a contract worth almost £500,000 to supply a complete non-destructive testing facility for the new aircraft engine overhaul plant being built by ALIA — The Royal Jordanian Airline.

Located on the Queen Alia International Airport in Amman, the plant will be capable of completely overhauling and reconditioning commercial aircraft engines.

A unique feature of the Ardrex installation is that it has been fully approved by all the major commercial jet engine manufacturers. The installation consists of a cleaning line for primary and secondary cleaning of engine components and assemblies prior to inspection, an Ardrex Carousel automatic wet process system, a magnetic particle inspection bench for detecting defects in ferrous components and an electrostatic dye penetrant inspection system for detecting defects in non-ferrous components.

The contract was won, in the face of very aggressive international competition, because of Ardrex's international reputation as a leader in non-destructive testing techniques and the company's ability to provide a complete turn-key operation including installation, commissioning and long term technical and training support, according to a statement made by the company.

When completed, the engine overhaul facility will be one of the most modern in the Middle East and will make a significant contribution to Jordan's hard currency invisible exports.

Glass factory starts experimental production

AMMAN (Petra) — The Jordanian Glass Industries Company (JGIC) in Me'an started experimental production of 6, 5, 4 and 3 mm thick glass at the beginning of last month, according to a JGIC spokesman.

The spokesman said that the experimental production stage will continue until the beginning of 1985 and that the commercial production stage will commence once the requirements of production staff, equipment, supply of spare parts and other preparations have been completed.

"Last week an agreement was reached with the major importers of foreign glass," the spokesman said, "and these importers have consented to purchase all JGIC glass made during the experimental stage which they will then supply to the local market."

The spokesman went on to say that programmes for marketing the Jordanian glass abroad will be drawn up at the earliest possible opportunity as the JGIC production capacity is three times the domestic requirement.

He also affirmed that the quality of sheet glass supplied to the local market last week was of the same quality, or better quality, than some of the imported glass. "This indicates that the results of the experimental stage are very encouraging," he said, "and the JGIC will continue to improve its product when the preparatory stages are complete."

One industry ministry official said research is still in its early stages, but results so far are quite satisfactory.

"The Fifth Generation Computer will be beneficial not just to Japanese industry but contribute to creating a sophisticated communications system worldwide," he added.

"We see possible uses in education, industry and medicine." The scientists will meet for four days from Nov. 6.

Computer scientists will meet in Japan

TOKYO (R) — Some 600 of the world's leading computer scientists will meet here this autumn to chart future research towards the building of a super-computer able to think for itself, industry ministry officials said Wednesday.

They told Reuters the scientists would review progress over the last two years in Japan, the United States and Europe towards the creation of a machine called the "Fifth Generation Computer".

The scientists, from 18 countries, are trying to come up with a machine by the early 1990's with enough intelligence to allow it to speak any of the world's languages and even repair itself.

It will need a memory 10,000 times bigger than present models and will have to work 1,000 times faster.

The Fifth Generation Computer is so called because the first computers used tubes, the second semi-conductors, the third transistors and the fourth large integrated circuits.

Scientists in Japan and other industrial countries have now managed experimentally to make virtually invisible microchips which will bring down the size of computers in the future.

This holds out the prospect of making small, cheap but very

powerful machines ranging over a vast store of the world's knowledge and easily used by the man in the street.

They could also be used for translating because they would work simply by being spoken to.

The Japanese project is being masterminded by the country's major computer makers Fujitsu Ltd., Hitachi Ltd. and NEC Corp. together with government agencies.

They have spent some eight billion yen (\$34 million) on research already, the sources said.

Work at present is concentrating on developing a new computer language to help the

fifth generation machine recognise commands in the human voice and then take appropriate action.

One industry ministry official said research is still in its early stages, but results so far are quite satisfactory.

"The Fifth Generation Computer will be beneficial not just to Japanese industry but contribute to creating a sophisticated communications system worldwide," he added.

"We see possible uses in education, industry and medicine." The scientists will meet for four days from Nov. 6.

British firms announce plans to merge

LONDON (R) — Four major London financial institutions Tuesday announced plans to merge, in a deal which they hope will put them on a par with big U.S. firms like Merrill Lynch.

Mercury Securities, which owns merchant bankers S.G. Warburg, stock jobbers (market makers) Akroyd and Smithers, stockbrokers Rowe and Pitman and government brokers Mullens said they had agreed to unite as soon as new London stock exchange rules allow them to do so, probably in early 1986.

Up to now the rules have kept the different financial functions strictly divided, adding to costs

and allowing more competitive centres like New York to take billions of dollars of business away from London.

Non-British firms have also moved into London, backed by huge capital bases, and Tuesday's merger is a direct effort to fight back.

The new company will have a market capitalisation of £350 to £375 million (\$460 to \$495 million), making it one of London's biggest, combined broking and dealing houses and offering a range of services unmatched by any group at present. "The stock exchange has indicated that the proposed arrangements are com-

patible with the principles (it has) set out... the Bank of England has also been kept informed," said a joint statement from the four firms.

The Bank of England, the country's central bank, has also said it will set up a special operation to take over Mullens' role as official broker in gilt-edged (government) securities.

More than 20 mergers have already been announced under the new proposals, some involving the big commercial banks like Barclays, Midland and National Westminster Bank.

offer services in banking and foreign exchange, corporate and project finance, advice to government, capital raising, securities trading, distribution and research, money broking and property services.

To avoid conflict of interests, investment management for clients will be carried out separately through subsidiaries.

The merger must be approved by shareholders in Mercury and Akroyd, which are quoted on the London market, and until the new rules take effect the four companies will retain their separate identities, the statement said.

Argentina fails to obtain credit rollover

NEW YORK (R) — Argentina's bank advisory committee announced Tuesday it would not roll over a \$125 million credit falling due Wednesday.

Banking sources said the com-

mittee told Economy Minister Bernardo Grinspun that it could not extend further credit because Argentina had failed to adopt an austerity programme which would meet the full approval of the International Monetary Fund (IMF).

In its statement, the 11-bank committee said the IMF had reached a number of key agreements with Argentina but a full agreement had not been hammered out.

"Therefore, Argentina is proceeding to repay on Aug. 15 the \$125 million to the working committee banks," it said.

The banking sources said the committee waited for a possible last-minute shift by Argentine authorities before issuing its sta-

tement.

Mr. Grinspun returned to Buenos Aires Monday night from the United States to brief President Raul Alfonsin on his meetings with representatives of the country's creditor banks and the IMF.

He reached some agreement with the IMF on a number of policy objectives, but important differences remained. The Argentines have made clear repeatedly that they will not apply economic measures which may lead to recession.

IAEA says 15 per cent of world electricity will be nuclear in 1985

VIENNA (R) — The U.N. International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA) said in its annual report Wednesday that nuclear power will provide 15 per cent of world electricity in 1985 despite a decline in plant construction.

The report said that at the end of 1983 nuclear power provided 12 per cent of world electricity and total installed nuclear generating capacity was 191 gigawatts.

At the same time, there was a continued nuclear slowdown in several countries, most notably in the United States.

The IAEA said nuclear power plant investment costs, which amount to 80 per cent of the costs for producing electricity, continued to rise sharply. As a result, there was more concern about the technical and economic performance of plants.

In 1983, construction started on

23 new plants to provide added capacity of 17.5 gigawatts. But earlier contracts or firm plans for 12 plants with a total of 13 gigawatts were cancelled or indefinitely suspended.

Work on several other plants now under construction could also be delayed or cancelled, the report said.

The IAEA forecast total world nuclear generating capacity in 1985 at 255 to 275 gigawatts, 15

per cent of electricity production. By the turn of the century a worldwide nuclear capacity of from 495 to 725 gigawatts was expected, a projected 20 per cent share of world electricity generation.

Uranium production excluding centrally planned communist economies, fell from 44,000 tonnes in 1981 to 38,000 tonnes in 1983 despite increases in both contract and spot market prices, it said.

Kuwaiti dinar surges

KUWAIT (R) — The Kuwaiti dinar surged on foreign exchange markets Wednesday as the central bank adjusted a key official exchange rate and let the dollar drop to its lowest level for three months. The central bank's two daily official exchange rates also coincided, prompting speculation in the market that the bank had abandoned its two-tier exchange rate system in favour of a unified rate. But this was swiftly denied. Sheikh Salem Abdul Aziz Al Saud Al Sabah, head of banking supervision at the central bank, told Reuters: "A dual exchange rate system still applies. We have not reverted to the old (single exchange rate) system." The bank slashed the rate at which it sells dollars on the free market to its lowest since May 16, putting it on a par with the rate at which it sells dollars for commercial deals. Previously the commercial rate had been pegged at a hefty discount to the free market rate, introduced last April to curb speculation against the local currency.

LONDON STOCK MARKET

LONDON (R) — Share prices closed easier, having traded mixed for most of the day, with economic data out of the U.S. and a weaker Wall Street opening leading to late markdowns in prices. Dealers said at 1500 the F.T. index was off 6.3 at 843.3.

Stocks were buoyed initially by prospects of lower U.K. base rates but news that U.S. industrial production rose 0.9 per cent in July led to the easier undertone. Beecham dropped 3p to 333p, after 343p, while ICI was 8p lower at 604p. Longer dated government bonds were up to 1/4 point lower having opened with gains of around 1/2 point.

North American shares were slightly lower while golds eased. Among leading equities GEC, Guest Keen, Courtaulds, BTR and Plessey were between 2p and 4p lower while Glaxo and Grand Metropolitan were down 15p and 10p apiece at 925p and 306p respectively. Imperial was up 2p at 162, after 163p.

General Accident was up 7p at 460p, after 463p, following results while Royal Insurance finished 6p easier at 450p ahead of interims due Thursday. Second line electrical stock, BSR International plunged 38p to 155p after results well below market expectations.

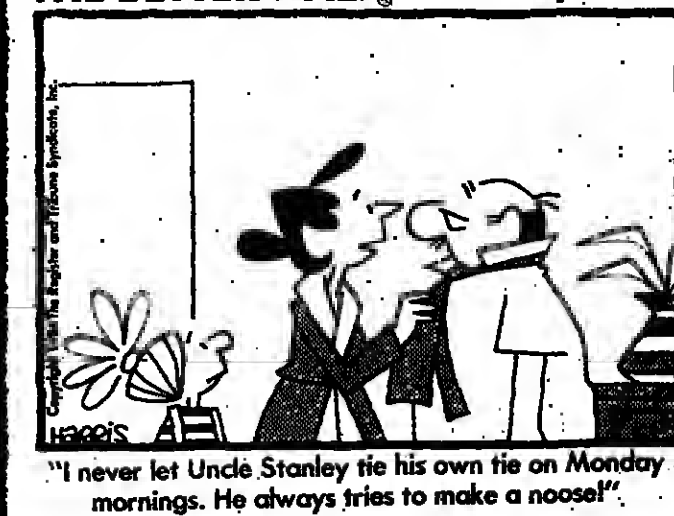
Leading oils were mainly easier with B.P. Lasmo, Shell and Ultramar between 3p and 5p lower.

LONDON EXCHANGE RATES

LONDON (R) — Following are the buying and selling rates for leading world currencies and gold against the dollar at midday on the London foreign exchange and bullion markets Wednesday.

One sterling	1.3205/15	U.S. dollars
One U.S. dollar	1.3052/55	Canadian dollars
	2.8790/8800	West German marks
	3.2405/15	Dutch guilders
	2.4125/35	Swiss francs
	58.05/08	Belgian francs
	8.8200/8300	French francs
	1769.00/1771.00	Italian lire
	241.90/242.00	Japanese yen
	8.3300/3350	Swedish crowns
	8.2625/2675	Norwegian crowns
	10.4600/4650	Danish crowns
One ounce of gold	351.25/351.75	U.S. dollars

THE BETTER HALF. By Harris



JUMBLE. THAT SCRAMBLED WORD GAME By Henri Arnold and Bob Lee

Unscramble these four jumbles, one letter to each square, to form four ordinary words.

YILCI
KARCC
DAMMAN
TARGEY

WHEN THEY TOOK THAT TROPICAL VACATION, THEY APPARENTLY WERE SAVING THEIR MONEY FOR THIS.

Now arrange the circled letters to form the surprise answer, as suggested by the above cartoon.

Print answer here: A

(Answers tomorrow)

Yesterday's Jumbles: AUGUR TOOTH WINTRY RACIAL
Answer: What the patient said when his doctor told him to diet—WHAT COLOR?

Peanuts



Mutt 'n' Jeff



Andy Capp



Hungary closes firm

BUDAPEST (R) — Communist Hungary's liberal economic reform, which make enterprises pay their own way, claimed its first casualty this week when a loss-making firm was closed. The official MTI news agency said Industry Minister Laszlo Kapolyi was dissolving IGV, a business machine and precision mechanical enterprise, because it has been uneconomical. "It is the first time since 1945 that a major enterprise is dissolved without a new legal entity succeeding it," MTI said. It said IGV lagged behind in technology, its production was often disrupted, it ran into external debt and incurred protracted losses. MTI added.

YOUR DAILY Horoscope from the Carroll Righter Institute

FORECAST FOR THURSDAY, AUG. 16, 1984

GENERAL TENDENCIES: Think out new and improved plans whereby you can make your long time desires and aims come true and then go to people who can help you in such a worthwhile course of action.

ARIES (Mar. 21 to Apr. 19) You have inner promptings that should be heeded, especially in whatever is vital to you.

TAURUS (Apr. 20 to May 20) Make a more intelligent plan to gain your goals, whether personal or business, and you have a better chance of attaining them.

GEMINI (May 21 to June 21) Early make an appointment for the future with a good friend for some definite purpose. Don't neglect to pay pressing bills.

MOON CHILDREN (June 22 to Jul. 21) A good day to add some new activity to present interests that can bring in greater income and more prestige.

LEO (Jul. 22 to Aug. 21) Get right into the state of mind that can help you to advance quickly in whatever work you are engaged in.

VIRGO (Aug. 22 to Sept. 22) You get fine suggestions for bettering your methods of dealing with others in business, so be sure to follow them.

LIBRA (Sept. 23 to Oct. 22) Don't try to force your partner to do what you wish, but use tact and thoughtfulness and better results are possible.

SCORPIO (Oct. 23 to Nov. 21) If you are enthused about the work ahead of you, it can go far more smoothly and efficiently, and you please a fellow worker, also.

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22 to Dec. 21) A new idea you get in the morning can increase your creativity and you can make plans for greater productivity.

CAPRICORN (Dec. 22 to Jan. 20) Try to make your family happier in some way, though you may have to compromise a little about something.

AQUARIUS (Jan. 21 to Feb. 19) Fine day for short trips for whatever useful purpose you have in mind, whether of a personal or business nature.

PISCES (Feb. 20 to Mar. 20) Take a different stance where money is concerned and you can get ahead faster today. Make sure you come to the right decisions.

IF YOUR CHILD IS BORN TODAY... he or she will be capable of comprehending and be a pioneer and be far ahead of others. One who will want to lead and organize very early in life but must also learn to be more cooperative with others for best results throughout the lifetime.

FORECAST FOR FRIDAY, AUGUST 17, 1984

GENERAL TENDENCIES: Until noon you will be able to arrange helpful undertakings, so make decisions then, for the afternoon and evening find you able to get into the nitty gritty details of making them work.

ARIES (Mar. 21 to Apr. 19) You can plan your activities early in detail and later carry them out most advantageously.

TAURUS (Apr. 20 to May 20) Arrange confidentially whatever is necessary to gain your personal aims and then all goes well for you. Drive most carefully.

GEMINI (May 21 to June 21) Come to a decision about that private wish you have and then act upon it confidentially and gain it.

MOON CHILDREN (June 22 to Jul. 21) Be certain to handle public affairs intelligently and gain the approval of higher-ups.

LEO (Jul. 22 to Aug. 21) You have been studying plans that need right decision now, and later you can gain the help of a hewig. Listen carefully.

VIRGO (Aug. 22 to Sept. 22) If you do something important for the one you love, you can then get into activities that are progressive and get good results.

LIBRA (Sept. 23 to Oct. 22) You can reach a decision on a new plan with partners early and then get right down to the work that needs to be done by you.

SCORPIO (Oct. 23 to Nov. 21) Early get that pressing work behind you so that later you can be with outside partners so you can plan the future more wisely.

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22 to Dec. 21) Get your finest talent across to hewigs so that you can become more successful. Then get busy with the work ahead of you.

CAPRICORN (Dec. 22 to Jan. 20) Carry through with promises you made so that you improve conditions for kin, then later go out together for amusement.

AQUARIUS (Jan. 21 to Feb. 19) Talk over your plans with partners so that you can produce more, and later gain the assistance of kin for some important project.

PISCES (Feb. 20 to Mar. 20) Find a better way of putting your assets to work so that you can command a greater income in the days ahead.

IF YOUR CHILD IS BORN TODAY... he or she will have much ability at investigative work and can come up with the right answers, especially with anything connected with the modern world, and should have as fine an education as possible so that upon reaching adulthood much success can be possible.

Mondale, Jackson rift resurfaces

MEMPHIS, Tennessee (R) — A rift between Walter Mondale and Jesse Jackson resurfaced with the black civil rights leader accusing the Democratic presidential nominee of ignoring black voters and Mr. Mondale saying he can win the White House without Jackson's help.

Rev. Jackson pledged at last month's Democratic Party convention to support Mr. Mondale, but he has since said he has not decided whether to campaign for him.

Mr. Mondale, in an angry outburst on his campaign plane overheard by a reporter, accused Rev. Jackson Tuesday of demanding more and more concessions as the price for his support, adding: "I can win this thing on my own."

Mr. Mondale later softened his

remarks at a news conference, saying he wanted Rev. Jackson's help and describing his differences with him as minor.

Aides said Mr. Mondale's remark on the plane appeared to have been caused by an interview with the Los Angeles Times in which Rev. Jackson accused Mr. Mondale of pitching his campaign at white middle-class voters and virtually ignoring blacks.

Mr. Mondale told reporters he had not meant his comments to

come out the way they sounded. "I didn't intend them that way ... I see these minor questions as irritations and only minor irritations that one does not have solely with Mr. Jackson," he said.

There was frequent friction between Rev. Jackson and Mr. Mondale while they fought out the long primary election campaign for the Democratic nomination.

Political experts believe an all-out effort by Rev. Jackson could greatly benefit Mr. Mondale's campaign to beat President Reagan in the November election.

Mr. Mondale earlier accused America's West European allies of not doing enough to defend themselves.

He told 600 cheering supporters in Little Rock, Arkansas, that, if elected, he would make

certain that Western Europe shared the burden for supporting NATO.

Mr. Mondale planned a campaign stop in Kentucky before returning to his home in Minnesota.

Pravda attacks Reagan's gaffe

In Moscow the Soviet Communist Party daily Pravda said Wednesday President Reagan's joke about bombing Russia proved his real intentions and it declared Moscow would not be intimidated.

Pravda's lengthy commentary on Mr. Reagan's gaffe before a radio broadcast on Saturday followed up initial Soviet reaction by a television news commentator Tuesday night.

Leaders warn against extremism as India marks Independence Day

NEW DELHI (R) — On the eve of India's Independence Day celebrations, Indian leaders have painted a portrait of a nation under siege from within and without.

President Zail Singh, in an Independence Day broadcast, said disruptive forces have created disturbances in the nation which threaten India's progress towards improved living standards.

"Any setback to this endeavour through violent agitations and extremist activities will put the clock back. It will weaken the country and perpetuate poverty," he said.

India went into Wednesday 37th anniversary of independence from Britain with crisis bubbling in Punjab state over the Sikh issue

threats to India from abroad, and political unrest in Jammu and Kashmir state bordering Pakistan.

The Sri Lankan army drive against Tamil separatists also loomed as a new challenge for Prime Minister Indira Gandhi.

Mrs. Gandhi's son Rajiv, regarded as her political heir apparent, indirectly singled out the United States as a superpower interfering in the nation's internal affairs when he made reference to threats to India from abroad.

In a speech at the India-Soviet Friendship Society, Rajiv called on Indians to fight pressure from major powers.

"We have seen how a major power interferes with other countries in Central America, in some

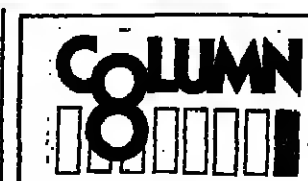
countries of Africa, the Arab World and around our own country," he said.

This power follows only political convenience and has no principles, he said.

Soviet Vice-President Arnold Rynutzel, who is in India to take part in the Independence Day celebrations, was in the audience to hear applause for Moscow's help to India since independence.

Rajiv criticised the U.S. for what he said was a decision to give high technology only to Third World nations with a free market economy.

"But then they sell high technology and sophisticated equipment to China for using in Tibet on our borders," he said.



Patti Reagan weds

LOS ANGELES (R) — President Reagan's actress daughter Patti and yoga instructor Paul Grilley were married Tuesday in a small private ceremony under a white gazebo draped with vines and flowers. Mr. Reagan and his wife, Nancy, were the only celebrities among the 130 guests in the garden of a Los Angeles hotel, according to Mrs. Reagan's Press Secretary, Sheila Tate. The media were excluded from the ceremony and a celebratory dinner. Ms. Tate said Patti, 31, wore a long, off-the-shoulder, white silk gown when she and Grilley, whose father is a building contractor and whose mother is a timber company secretary, exchanged plain gold wedding bands. Patti, one of President Reagan's four children from his two marriages, has pursued an independent life in California.

Policeman charged for planting bomb on athletes' bus

LOS ANGELES (R) — A policeman who was declared a hero Monday when he snatched a bomb off a bus used by the Turkish Olympic team has been charged with planting the device, police said Tuesday. They said James Pearson, 40, a nine-year veteran of the force with many commendations, was being held in custody on charges of possessing an explosive device. "Pearson did this on his own because he was frustrated with his supervisors," Police Chief Daryl Gates told a hastily-called news conference. "He was a good policeman who made many fine arrests, but he wanted some attention to show what he was capable of doing," Gates said. "He decided he wanted to notice him. We have all certainly noticed him now."

Canadian premier apologises for patting bottoms

OTTAWA (R) — Canadian Prime Minister John Turner has apologised for patting women's bottoms and says he will not do it again. Mr. Turner made his apology just before a nationally televised debate on women's issues. Mr. Turner told reporters the highly-publicised bottom-patting incidents a month ago involving Party President Iona Campagnolo and Quebec Vice-President Lise St. Martin-Tremblay had been exaggerated by the media. "They were gestures of friendship to two friends, political equals, and I certainly meant no disrespect or offence," he said. "It hasn't happened again nor will it." When reports of the two incidents first appeared, Mr. Turner joked about being "a tactile politician. I'm a hugger ... that's my style," he said.

China executes 2 for reviving secret society

PEKING (R) — Two men who revived a quasi-religious secret society in central China have been executed, the Hubei Provincial daily said in a report reaching Peking Tuesday. The newspaper said Wang Wenhua, 68 and Zhang Congde, 71, were former leaders in Hubei province of the "Empire of Great Han" Society, which was banned by the Communist government in 1953. The report said the two revived the society in 1980 and eventually recruited hundreds of members. "They repeatedly spread rumours of a great calamity, confused and slandered the people's government and disturbed the social order," the newspaper said. It said Wang and Zhang organised a conspiracy called the "great event" and distributed literature called "scriptures for extirpating justice." Chinese secret societies helped overthrow the Manchu Dynasty in 1911 but some later worked for Chiang Kai-shek's Nationalists in the 1920s and 1930s.

Jaruzelski gets 21 per cent pay rise

WARSAW (R) — Polish Prime Minister Wojciech Jaruzelski will receive a 21 per cent pay rise next January, bringing his salary to 68,000 zloties (\$620) a month, the government newspaper Rzeczpospolita said. The newspaper said Head of State Henryk Jablonski and the Speaker of Parliament, Stanislaw Gucwa, would receive the same rises. All three at present earn 56,000 zloties (\$510) a month, it said. The average industrial wage in Poland is 17,900 zloties (\$163) a month.

Troops reportedly kill over 100 Ugandans

LONDON (AP) — Local Christian leaders in Uganda say government troops there massacred more than 100 people at a shrine for Christian martyrs which Pope John Paul II is scheduled to visit next year, the Daily Telegraph reported Wednesday.

The British paper quoted members of Roman Catholic and Anglican mission at Namugongo, 16 kilometres from the capital Kampala, as saying other victims in the reported massacre there earlier this summer survived the massacre but were mutilated.

The newspaper's reporter, A.J. McIlroy, reported from Namugongo during a visit Tuesday. Thousands of pilgrims visit a shrine in the town that memorialises 30 Ugandans burned to death 99 years ago for refusing to renounce Christianity.

The reporter quoted Ugandan Information Minister David Anyoti as admitting a massacre took place at Namugongo.

But Mr. McIlroy quoted Mr. Anyoti as saying allegations of a reign of terror in Uganda worse than during the rule of deposed dictator Idi Amin were motivated by political enemies who wanted to bring down President Milton

Obote.

The reign-of-terror accusations follow a visit to Uganda last month by U.S. Senator Charles Grassley.

Mr. McIlroy said the missions in Namugongo agreed security had improved since the massacre. But he quoted Monsignor Joseph Sebaggga, parish priest for 10,000 Catholics in the area, as saying: "The attack on the satellite station was out of the blue. Things have been so quiet. But the army came three days later attacking the area and particularly the Anglican mission, burning and stealing from houses."

Mr. Anyoti told the reporter that the soldiers involved in the massacre were searching for anti-government guerrillas who had earlier attacked the satellite station at nearby Mpoma.

But Mr. Anyoti said the soldiers' action at Namugongo could not be condoned and that the officer responsible will be put on public trial. Mr. McIlroy reported.

Mr. Anyoti added: "We have told the United States fully the situation and we have stressed that mass murders on the scale claimed by the American reports are an exaggeration beyond belief."

China criticises U.S. stand on abortion

PEKING (Agencies) — China said Wednesday that the United States took an unpopular "stubborn stand" against abortion at the Mexico City Conference on Population Control.

The Chinese government also accused Washington of slandering the systems of Third World nations by blaming them for overcrowding the world.

The criticisms came in a commentary by the New China News Agency on the conference, which ended Tuesday.

"Facing the severe facts, representatives of almost all participating countries emphasised that effective measures should immediately be taken to curb the overgrowth of the world population," the agency said.

But the agency said Sen. James Buckley, head of the U.S. delegation, asserted that "only a free economy could eliminate the threat of rapid population growth

and that slowing population growth was not a panacea". He reaffirmed the stubborn stand of the U.S. government against abortion.

It said Sen. Buckley's remarks "aroused strong criticism from many representatives, those from developing countries in particular. They said the United States was trying to use the Population Conference to slander the political and economic systems of other countries and intervene in other countries' internal affairs."

The United States has said it will not provide aid to population-control programmes that promote abortion as part of family planning.

China has the largest population of any country, 1.03 billion people, and is attempting to keep the number from exceeding 1.2 billion by the end of the century. The government limits most new-lawed couples to one child and

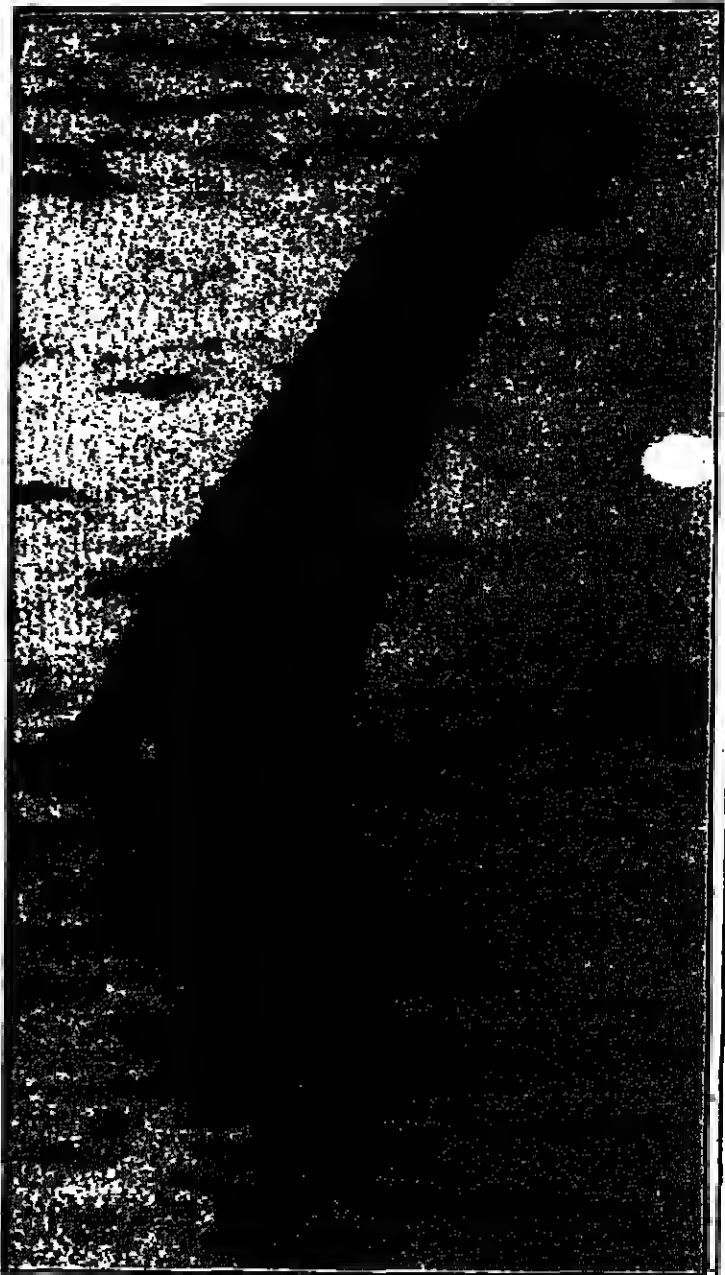
promotes birth control, voluntary sterilisation, and abortion.

A dispute emerged in the last two days of the nine-day meeting, when the United States tried to have a thinly-veiled criticism of Israel's settlements policy deleted from recommendations to governments.

James Buckley, the chief U.S. delegate, said the text was "irrelevant and extraneous" and clearly directed at Israel although that country was not named.

He said the recommendation "does not have general application, but one focus and one focus only and that is the Middle East."

The section was one of 88 recommendations in the conference's final report. All the others were agreed by consensus. An American attempt to have it deleted was rejected by 87 votes to two — the United States and Israel — with 26 abstentions.



Picture believed to be of the Loch Ness monster (File photo)

Hunters seek Loch Ness monster yet again

EDINBURGH, Scotland (AP) — The annual monster-hunting season is in full swing at Loch Ness, and a glass-fiber tube baited with live fish is the latest trap being laid for legendary "Nessie."

"I am convinced there is something down there, but the only way to prove it to the world is to catch it," said Stephen Whittle, a 25-year-old civil service clerk who is spending his summer holiday monster-hunting.

Undaunted by mounting skepticism that Nessie exists, Whittle starts his quest in two weeks, his 20,000 pound (\$26,200) expedition funded by a Vodka distiller.

Records dating back to the 6th Century AD report hundreds of sightings of large, strange creatures in the 38-kilometre-long 232 metre-deep loch between Inverness and Fort William. But scientific investigation has brought no decisive results.

Theories have ranged from others, giant eels or birds taking flight to tricks of light on the loch waters or masses of decomposing vegetation blown to the surface by gas. If a monster exists, scientists have speculated, it could be descended from a dinosaur trapped in the loch since the ice age.

Franksters have used rubber models, photographed at night to resemble a huge beast plodding along the loch shore.

Fifty years ago, a London newspaper published "conclusive evidence" — a photo of two large footprints by the loch. They turned out to have been formed with an umbrella stand fashioned from a hippo's foot.

The most celebrated monster photo, taken in 1934 by Lt. Col. Kenneth Wilson, a London physician, showed a long-necked beast poking its head above water. Long taken seriously, the photo has now been debunked by researcher Ronald Binnis who wrote in book published this year that he reproduced the picture using a piece of cardboard and a half-empty Perrier bottle.

But many of the people living alongside the loch profess to be firm believers in Nessie's existence. While they are the butt of

many a joke, they're not complaining. The monster myth brings 100,000 tourists a year to the remote lake.

Whittle and a dedicated band of about 30 helpers are building their 20-metre-long, 6-metre-wide trap at the loch side. A helicopter will lower it into the water Aug. 28 and suspend it 10 metres below a floating platform.

Live fish will be put inside the tube to tempt the monster and a four-man crew on the platform will monitor the tube through cameras and electronic sensors.

"Anything large and mysterious takes the bait, a trap door will seal the tube."

Nessie will then be winched to the surface, filmed, examined and put back into the water. "We don't want to harm it in any way," Whittle said in a telephone interview Tuesday from the site.

Whittle is being helped by the Loch Ness and Morar Project, a scientific team under 33-year-old engineer Adrian Shine, which has been studying the fauna of Loch Ness and 313-metre-deep Loch Morar on the Scottish west coast. Loch Morar is also the reputed home of monsters.

For three years Shine has driven a cabin cruiser up and down Loch Ness taking sonar readings.

"We are the most skeptical investigators so far, but we are greatly impressed with some of the eyewitness accounts and we also have some strong, deep sonar contacts with something moving in the loch," Shine said.

"There is no scientific reason why there should not be a relatively large animal in the loch."

Also expected at Loch Ness in the coming days are Jeff Watson, a professional photographer, schoolteacher Joe Zarzynsky of New York with sonar gear, and Robert Rines of Concord, New Hampshire, who claimed after a Loch Ness expedition in the early 1970s to have sonar traces of a massive flipper.

Mr. Zarzynsky has been investigating the legendary long-necked, hump-backed monsters of Lake Champlain, spanning the U.S.-Canadian border.

Japan remembers World War II dead

TOKYO (R) — Prime Minister Yasuhiro Nakasone and his cabinet ministers visited a controversial shrine for war dead Wednesday during ceremonies marking the 39th anniversary of Japan's defeat in World War II.

The ministers paid homage at Tokyo's 114-year-old Yasukuni Shrine which is sometimes viewed as a symbol of prewar Japanese militarism.

The first premier to visit the shrine on Anniversary Day was Takeo Miki in 1973. An outcry followed and the government subsequently ruled there was a "suspicion of unconstitutional behaviour" about visits there by cabinet ministers.

Nevertheless most prime ministers since then have gone to the shrine on Anniversary Day in a private capacity. Mr. Nakasone left it ambiguous whether his visit was official or private.

For the past two days about 160 members of bereaved families have been staging a hunger strike in the shrine compound demanding official visits by cabinet members.

Mr. Nakasone, widely regarded as one of the most hawkish

Japanese premiers for years, also attended a memorial service at which Emperor Hirohito delivered his customary speech mourning the 3.1 million Japanese lost in World War II.

The speech adhered rigidly to the same text delivered by the emperor every year. "I mourn for the war dead wholeheartedly and pray for peace jointly with the whole people," the 83-year-old Hirohito said.

About 7,300 mourners were at the ceremony in Tokyo's Nippon Budokan Hall, near the Imperial Palace. They included political and business leaders and members of war-bereaved families.

Mr. Nakasone said: "I firmly pledge my continuous efforts for the further development of the country under the cause of world peace and international cooperation."

Human guinea pigs

Japanese university professors have discovered documentary evidence on bacteriological and poison gas experiments conducted on prisoners of war by a Japanese army unit in Manchuria before

and during World War II, professor Akira Tanaka of the Keio University said Wednesday.

Prof. Tanaka, head of a private research group on World War II, said a colleague, Professor Takao Matsumura, discovered the two reports of the Manchuria-based 731st Unit through a Tokyo bookstore specialising in old documents.

Prof. Tanaka said the reports were accidentally found by the bookstore in a pile of old books and documents discarded by a former 731st Unit officer. Prof. Tanaka refused to identify the officer.

The 731st Unit, often called the Ishii Unit after the name of its founder Gen. Shiro Ishii, is known to have conducted bacteriological and poison gas experiments on Chinese, Russian, and American prisoners of war before 1945.

After the war, members of the 731st Unit were ordered to refrain from divulging information on the unit, while top officials, including Gen. Shiro Ishii, were said to have been granted immunity from prosecution by U.S. officials in exchange for scientific data obtained in the human experiments.

Soviet army testing anti-cruise missile

MOSCOW (R) — Soviet missile units appear to be testing their ability to shoot down cruise missiles. Western military experts in Moscow said.

The experts were commenting on a report in the army daily Red Star which referred to surface-to-air missile tests in the Kiev Military District of the eastern Ukraine.

A description of training methods for operators of electronic air defence missile batteries said they were dealing with "small, fast-moving targets hard to distinguish from reflected signals from high ground and other local objects."

Marshal Vladimir Tolubko,

head of the Soviet Strategic Missile Forces, was quoted by the weekly Literaturnaya Gazeta last week as saying Moscow was testing its own long-range cruise missiles.

Tests on these and on strategic missiles similar to the American MX were being carried out in Siberia, he said.

Sweden has carried out tests on downing cruise missiles to emphasise that it refuses to allow its neutrality to be infringed by one foreign power attacking another with missiles flying over Swedish territory.

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Workers bid farewell to Boeing 727

RENTON, Washington (AP) — After a run lasting more than two decades, it is the end of the production line for the Boeing 727, the compact aircraft that its manufacturers say became the most popular commercial airliner in the world.

Thousands of Boeing Co. workers paused on Tuesday to honour the plane as the last Boeing 727 rolled off the assembly line.

The first of the 1,832 Boeing 727s took to the air Feb. 9, 1969. Over the next 20 years, the sturdy trijet introduced jet flight to the far corners of the world as 548 were sold abroad. Lufthansa German Airlines purchased 52 followed by Iberia Airlines of Spain with 37 and All Nippon Airways Co. of Japan with 35.

The initial Boeing 727 was invited to Tuesday's farewell ceremony, but its owner, United Airlines, said the old jet was too busy working to take time for a party.

Old No. 1 has flown 47,180 hours and been overhauled four times, said James Hartigan, president of the U.S. carrier.

The 727 "is probably one of the best-liked airplanes in service, by pilots and passengers alike," said S. Lewis Wallick, who was pilot on the first 727 test flight crew.

Mr. Wallick was in the cockpit as the final plane, a 727-200 freighter model that is the last of 15 planes bought by an American firm, was rolled out of the hangar.

The next most popular airliner, Boeing officials say, has been the McDonnell Douglas DC-9, with 1,200 orders.

The 727, which has carried more than 2.3 billion passengers and traveled 21 billion miles, is being replaced among airline companies by such new-generation planes as Boeing's two-engine 757.

Orders for the 727 fell off because newer jetliners require smaller crews than the three-person

crew of the trijet, and are quieter and more fuel-efficient, Boeing said.

Airlines ordering 727s spent about \$20 billion, according to Boeing. Of the 727s built, more than 1,780 are still working.

While Boeing officials sang the praises of their jet and the company, most of the 10,000 workers at the Renton Plant, located south of Seattle, applauded the plane that had meant so much to their paychecks the past two decades.

"It's been a good plane. It's been a good seller," said Wilson Lindsay of Renton, a supervisor who joined the company in 1941.

The 727 won't disappear for a long time, noted Frank Shontz, president of the Boeing Commercial Airplane Co.

"This airplane ... plus other 727 of recent vintage, will be capable of serving their owners for years into the 21st Century," he said, estimating the 727 will spend more than 40 years in service.

GOREN BRIDGE

BY CHARLES GOREN
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ANSWERS TO BRIDGE QUIZ

Q.1 — As South, vulnerable, you hold:
♠KJ93 ♥Q10632 ♦A654
The bidding has proceeded:
West North East South
1 ♠ 2 ♠ Pass ?
What do you bid now?
A. — When this hand was played in a rubber bridge game, South elected to bid two no trump, and North went to game. The opponents doubled and the carnage was frightful. South should not have bid over two diamonds. Since there might be no quick source of tricks, a no trump contract rated to be tenuous at best. Partner surely had a reasonable suit for his vulnerable two-level overall, so two diamonds rated to be eminently playable.

♠AQJ95 ♥K963 ♦9 ♣762
The bidding has proceeded:
North East South West
1 ♠ Pass 1 ♠ Pass
3 ♠ Pass ?
What do you bid now?
A. — Partner has not only reversed, he has jumped. It sounds as if your response has improved his hand. Slam should be certain, and a grand slam is possible. If you jump to five hearts to show your good support and inability to make a cue-bid, you could get the auction too high for orderly investigation. We prefer a waiting bid of three spades. When you later support partner's hearts, partner should have a clear picture of your hand — good hearts, a decent spade suit headed by the ace, and no club control.

Q.2 — Both vulnerable, as South you hold:
♠KJ83 ♥A94 ♦10962 ♣K10
The bidding has proceeded:
North East South West
1 ♠ Pass 1 ♠ Pass
3 ♠ Pass ?
What do you bid now?
A. — You are in slam territory, and the only question is how best to explore the possibilities. If you raise diamonds now to set the suit, you might not be able to handle the subsequent auction. Bid three hearts. When you later support diamonds, partner will realize that this was a cue-bid.

Q.5 — East-West vulnerable, as South you hold:
♠AK42 ♥J ♦KQ98 ♣Q1096
The bidding has proceeded:
East South West North
1 ♠ Pass Pass 1 ♥ Dble ?
What action do you take?
A. — Partner might not have very much for his reopening bid, but your side clearly has the preponderance of strength. Redouble. Don't let your singleton heart deter you — you have more than enough outside tricks to make up for that flaw. And if the opponents run, do not hesitate to wield the axe.

Q.3 — East-West vulnerable, as South you hold:
♠QJ76 ♥K984 ♦Q10542
The bidding has proceeded:
North East South
1 ♠ 1 ♥ ?
What action do you take?
A. — First, you do not have the values for a two-over-one response. Second, we do not fancy a free bid of one spade on a four-card suit when you are void in the suit partner opened. A penalty double of one heart is attractive at this vulnerability, but it is rather premature. Pass, and wait to see how the auction develops.

Q.6 — As South, vulnerable, you hold:
♠5 ♥AQJ6 ♦AK83 ♣A954
The bidding has proceeded:
South West North East
1 ♥ Pass 1 ♠ Pass
2 ♣ Pass 4 ♠ Pass ?
What action do you take?
A. — Partner's jump to game in spades should show a self-sustaining suit. Therefore, your wealth of controls makes slam possible despite your lack of support for spades. A bid of five spades in this situation might be confusing — partner could think you were asking about a diamond control. Make your move toward slam by cue-bidding five diamonds.

Q.4 — As South, vulnerable, you hold: